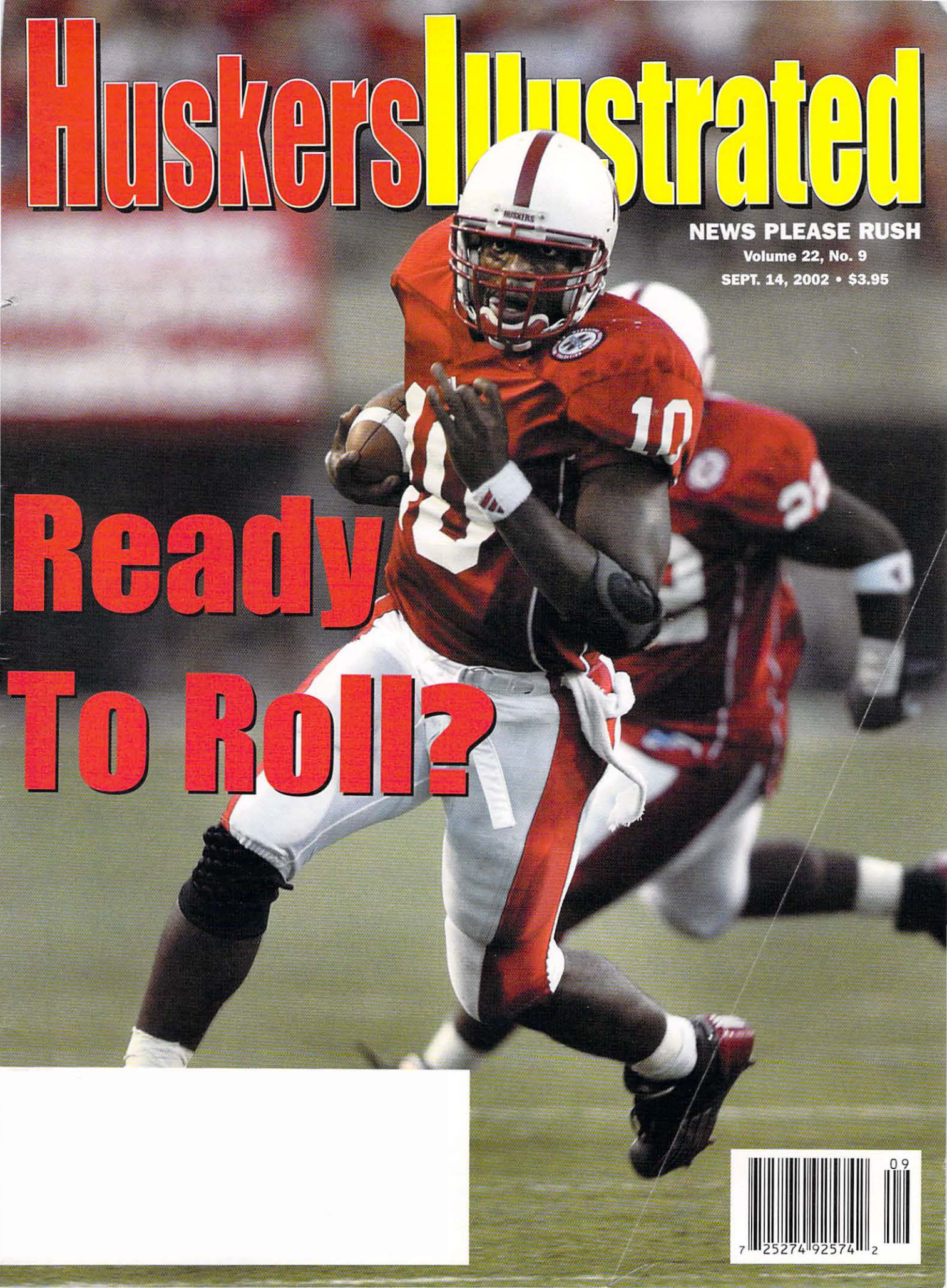


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250 . . . And Counting

*After celebrating a milestone at home,
the Huskers will take their show on the road*



Brian Hill

FRANK SOLICH was an 18-year-old freshman at Nebraska, and the capacity of Memorial Stadium was less than 35,000.

A crowd of 36,501 jammed into the stadium for the fifth home game of the Bob Devaney era, a Homecoming meeting with Missouri on Nov. 3, 1962. Although Nebraska would lose that game, 16-7, its only home loss that season was the start of something big.

Who could have guessed then, that 40 years later, Nebraska would be celebrating its 250th consecutive sellout, just a day before Solich celebrated his 58th birthday?

A record crowd of 78,176 was on hand to watch the Huskers defeat Utah State 44-13 on Sept. 7, and the sellout streak is a continuing NCAA record. Memorial Stadium's last non-sellout was against Kansas State on Oct. 20, 1962.

More than 18 million fans have attended home games during the streak. Nebraska's record in those games is 224-26, a winning percentage of .896. The victory against Utah State was Nebraska's 24th in a row at home, the longest active streak in NCAA Division I-A.

But after opening the season with three straight victories at home, Solich takes his show on the road for a prime-time meeting with Penn State and legendary Coach Joe Paterno at 106,000-seat Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pa.

"We've got three games under our

belt, and I think we've improved in some areas," Solich said. "So, we certainly feel much better about making a road trip to Penn State than I did two weeks ago."

While Nebraska has already played three games, the Nittany Lions have played just once, holding off Central Florida 27-24 Aug. 31. For those who like to compare scores, Arizona State drubbed Central Florida 46-13 two weeks after losing to Nebraska 48-10 in the season opener Aug. 24.

Penn State's Paterno, the all-time leader among Division I-A coaches with 328 victories in his 37 years as head coach, has certainly taken notice of one part of Nebraska's early performance.

"The return guy, DeJuan Groce, is great, and their people are very quick and active and have an excellent scheme," Paterno said during last week's Big Ten teleconference. "If we can't do a good job, the kicking game will beat us. I don't think we can win the kicking game, but hopefully, we can stay close in it. They really do have a great block and return game."

You can find more about Paterno's Nittany Lions and Nebraska's latest victory in this edition of *Huskers Illustrated*.

Our main feature in this issue takes a look at Nebraska's running backs and the need to be physical. The subject of our player profile is senior Aaron Terpening, a key special teams contributor the last two seasons who has moved into the starting lineup at rover. The series on Husker assistants continues with a look at Nelson Barnes, who coaches the rush ends.

Meanwhile, it's 250 and counting at home, and a tough road trip to Happy Valley up next. Then, after a week off, it'll be another road trip to face Iowa State in the Big 12 Conference opener.

The preliminaries are over, and it's time for the real thing. ■



ON THE COVER

Jammal Lord heads for the end zone on his 28-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. The junior quarterback ran for two touchdowns and passed for two more in Nebraska's 44-13 victory. Photo by Scott Bruhn

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Huskers Illustrated CONTENTS

SEPT. 14, 2002 • Volume 22, No. 9

DEPARTMENTS

Letter From The Editor	4
NU Notebook	6
<i>If not for Penn State, Nebraska might well have been voted a national championship in 1982.</i>	
State Of The Huskers	8
<i>A smile crosses Judd Davies' face as he considers how his approach to football has changed since high school.</i>	
From The West	10
<i>Now a member of the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame, Eric Crouch focuses on his future as an NFL wide receiver.</i>	
From The Beat	12
<i>A summer kicking camp in Pennsylvania helped Josh Brown prepare for his senior season.</i>	
Player Profile	18
<i>Aaron Terpening found himself in the "Twilight Zone" on the Tuesday before Nebraska's opening game.</i>	
Utah State Game Recap	21
4th and Inches	25
Scouting Report	26
Utah State Game Statistics	28
Side Out	34
<i>Senior Lindsay Wischmeier once again finds herself in a new role for the Huskers.</i>	
All Sports	36
<i>Nebraska junior Erin Miller isn't your typical goalkeeper who waits for the action to come to her.</i>	
Grid Recruiting	40
<i>Nebraska has a history of younger brothers following older brothers to Lincoln.</i>	
Crossword Puzzle, Huskernutz	44
Final Word	46



30 Coach's Corner

Nelson Barnes needed some assurances from Tom Osborne before he would consider being a candidate for a position at Nebraska. *By Mike Babcock*



14 Physical Running Backs

Nebraska running backs learn quickly that without an opening, or not much of one, they have to be ready to go into contact. *By Mike Babcock*

NEXT ISSUE

The Penn State review/Iowa State preview issue will be mailed Monday, Sept. 16.

Great Debates

If not for Penn State, Nebraska might well have been voted a national championship in 1982. The controversial loss at State College — Nebraska's last visit to Happy Valley — was the only blemish on the Cornhuskers' record that season.

As the season played out, however, the loss probably wasn't as much of a factor as the subjective nature of the polls that proclaimed Penn State national champion in 1982. Nebraska might still have been a national champion, even with the 27-24 loss.

The Nittany Lions were national champs in both the Associated Press (media) and United Press International (coaches) rankings, despite finishing 11-1 to Nebraska's 12-1.

Traditionally when the major polls determined national champions, the later in the season a loss occurred, the more significant it was. But two weeks after the Nebraska game, following an off-week to regroup, Penn State lost to Alabama in Birmingham by a decisive 42-21.

The Nittany Lions dropped to No. 8 in the AP rankings, two places behind Nebraska, and remained behind the Cornhuskers in the poll until a 24-14 victory at Notre Dame in mid-November.

Notre Dame was ranked 13th in the AP poll, to Penn State's 5th.

No. 4 Nebraska won at unranked Iowa State that day, 48-10, and then defeated No. 11 Oklahoma 28-24 on the day after Thanksgiving, while Penn State was beating No. 5 Pittsburgh 19-10.

Though Penn State could argue a stronger finish, there was talk that some voters had been inclined toward Joe Paterno, who had yet to coach a national championship team. Nebraska's Tom Osborne hadn't either. But Paterno was the veteran, and already clearly on his way to the Hall of Fame.

Penn State still had to beat No. 1-ranked Georgia in the Sugar Bowl game, of course, while Nebraska, with no hope of earning a national title, edged LSU in the Orange Bowl, 21-20.

Even then, SMU had arguably a better claim to the national championship with an 11-0-1 record. But Penn State finished atop both polls, the first of two titles during Paterno's 36 seasons.

His 1986 team also won a national championship, beating No. 1 Miami in



VS.

**Penn State
leads series,
6-5**



- 1920** — Penn State 20, Nebraska 0 (State College)
- 1949** — Penn State 22, Nebraska 7 (State College)
- 1950** — Nebraska 19, Penn State 0 (Lincoln)
- 1951** — Penn State 15, Nebraska 7 (Lincoln)
- 1952** — Penn State 10, Nebraska 0 (State College)
- 1958** — Nebraska 14, Penn State 7 (Lincoln)
- 1979** — Nebraska 42, Penn State 17 (Lincoln)
- 1980** — Nebraska 21, Penn State 7 (State College)
- 1981** — Penn State 30, Nebraska 24 (Lincoln)
- 1982** — Penn State 27, Nebraska 24 (State College)
- 1983** — Nebraska 44, Penn State 6 (neutral*)

*Kickoff Classic at East Rutherford, N.J.

the Fiesta Bowl, 14-10.

Penn State fans can argue that Paterno should have three, and that Nebraska is the reason he doesn't, claiming both the AP and coaches' national championships in 1994 even though the Nittany Lions also finished undefeated and were ahead of Nebraska in the polls in late October.

The Cornhuskers seemed to be penalized by voters after Tommie Frazier was sidelined by a blood-clot problem but regained their national title momentum by defeating second-ranked Colorado in Lincoln 24-7. A week later, Penn State dropped to No. 2, following a close victory at Indiana.

Again, some claimed that voters took into account the fact that Osborne hadn't coached a national championship team — a possibility because of the polls' subjectivity, but unlikely.

A Nebraska-Penn State bowl matchup could have decided the national title issue if not for the Big 10's long-standing, and financially lucrative, tie-in with the Rose Bowl.

(Paterno, by the way, was the first to coach victories in all four traditional New Year's Day bowl games: Orange, Sugar, Cotton and Rose.)

Even though the Nittany Lions defeated Oregon 38-20 the day after Nebraska dumped Miami 24-17 in the

Orange Bowl game, they couldn't get even a share of the national title.

The call for a national championship playoff in NCAA Division I-A, which was being championed by Sports Illustrated's Dan Jenkins in the 1960s, was growing much louder by 1994.

One of the standard arguments against such a playoff has been the unreasonable lengthening of the season and the impact that lengthening would have on the student-athletes involved.

That argument would seem to have been shot down this season, with the NCAA's decision to allow programs to schedule a 12th regular-season game. That means teams in conferences with championship games have the potential to play 13 games, plus a bowl game makes 14.

Oh yes, and several teams, including Nebraska, have played in preseason games, which means if their conference also has a playoff, they could play as many as 15 games.

Depending on the number of teams and the length of the schedule the NCAA allowed, a playoff to determine a national champion would require, at most, 16 games — for the final two teams.

So where's the problem? With the bowls, mainly. ■

SIGHT UNSEEN, SORT OF

Many of recruits find out what Nebraska football is all about during Big Red summer camps.

Sophomore offensive guard Mike Erickson attended the camp twice, before his junior and senior seasons at Papillion-LaVista, Neb., High School. His participation in the camp during the summer before his senior season was limited to testing and a one-on-one blocking drill.

During the drill, on the day after the testing, he tried to make a "swim" move on a blocker, who "punched me under my shoulder just right and it came out," said Erickson.

During the remainder of the camp, Erickson stood beside offensive line coach Milt Tenopir and watched, wondering if the injury would affect his scholarship chances.

"I was thinking the only thing that can help me right now is the way I tested because the 're' not going to get to see what I can do in camp," Erickson said. "I was hoping that would be enough."

It was. On the third day of camp, Coach Frank Solich said he would like to see Erickson in his office after the session. "I was like, there's either something wrong or something good," said Erickson. "I was excited and nervous at the same time. When I finally got up there, I knew."

"He invited me into his office and shook my hand." And offered a scholarship.

Although Erickson could hardly contain his excitement, he said he would have to discuss the offer with his dad. His "eyes got big," leaving no doubt what his final answer was going to be.

Erickson waited until after his senior season to undergo surgery on the shoulder.

"I remember it hurting a lot," he said. During the first half of a game against Millard North, the shoulder popped out, and "a trainer had to put it back in again."

GET A GLOVE ON IT

Redshirted freshman Mike McLaughlin is still learning after moving from quarterback to wingback midway through spring practice. And there is much to learn besides plays.

McLaughlin began two-a-day practices bare handed.

After he dropped a couple of passes in drills, receivers coach Ron Brown asked him where his receivers gloves were. "Well, I don't wear them," McLaughlin replied.

Even though the veteran receivers all wore gloves, "I wanted to feel the ball with my hands," said McLaughlin. But Brown suggested he try the gloves.

Now "I like them," McLaughlin said. "It's a good grip, especially when it's wet or you're sweating quite a bit. They're going to be beneficial. It's nice to have that extra grip."

And, of course, when the weather is cold, they'll keep his hands warm. ■

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

BIG SMOOOOTH

Barring something unforeseen, "Big Smooth" will be redshirted this season. Redshirts are always tentative until the season, including the bowl game, is complete.



Jemayel Phillips

"Big Smooth" is Jemayel Phillips, a 6-foot-6, 330-pound offensive lineman from Winnfield, La. He earned his unique nickname in high school, "my junior or sophomore year," he said.

A newspaper reporter gave him the nickname "Smooth" after watching him run a fast 40-yard dash. One of his high school coaches added "Big" to the nickname, for obvious reasons.

Back home, "everybody calls me that," said Phillips.

And by the way, that's "Big Smooth" with two h's, he said.

Some freshmen are intimidated, but not "Big Smooth."

"I'm not nervous at all," he said on the second day of freshman practices. "I'm 6-6 and 330 pounds. What would I be nervous about?" His point was well taken.

During those practices before the varsity reported, Phillips found himself lining up against Brandon Greeson, a 6-3, 325-pound defensive tackle from High Point, N.C.

Greeson also wasn't intimidated by his new surroundings.

"I ain't afraid of no one," he said, echoing Phillips. "Why should I be?"

Greeson said he would withhold judgment as to whether "Big Smooth" was an appropriate nickname for his fellow freshman. "I haven't seen him with the ladies," Greeson said with a laugh.

WHERE THE GRASS IS REAL

Nebraska's next two games will be played on natural grass fields and the Cornhuskers should be well prepared, after regular practices on the grass fields north of Memorial Stadium.

Typically, the schedule has been to practice on the grass fields Monday and Wednesday and on the Memorial Stadium's FieldTurf on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

"I think it's just good to condition yourself in terms of working on some grass a little every week," said Coach Frank Solich. "I just like the changeup of having guys work on both."

That way, players "really get used to it and conditioned to it," he said.

Even though FieldTurf and natural grass are "two distinct surfaces," most players wear the same shoes for both, Solich said, "so we don't have to worry about breaking it in."

After the Penn State and Iowa State games, Nebraska will play on a natural grass surface only one other time, at Texas A&M's Kyle Field. Even so, the Cornhuskers will continue to spend practice time on the grass fields until the weather makes that difficult. "We plan on doing it, hopefully, through a share of the season, but we'll see," said Solich. "The grass will need to hold up. If things get to where it's just hard as a rock, and the grass is worn down, then we'll probably work less on it."

With the field that once was part of the baseball team's Buck Beltzer Stadium now converted for football practice and the infield of the Ed Weir track, the team can rotate between the two.

"So hopefully, they'll hold up better," Solich said.

Nebraska's remaining road games will be played on artificial surfaces, Astro Play at Oklahoma State and the familiar FieldTurf at Kansas State.

OH BROTHER

The Cornhusker roster includes three brother combinations, including the first set of twins, Josh and Daniel Bullocks. Troy and Adam Hassebrook and Brandon and Cole Biodrowski also are brothers.

In addition, Chris Kelsay and Dan Burrow are following older brothers at Nebraska. ■



Daniel Bullocks



Josh Bullocks

Different Mindset

Approach to football changes for Husker fullback Davies



Mike BABCOCK

A SMILE CROSSES Judd Davies' face as he considers how his approach to football has changed since high school. His days at Omaha's Millard North seem innocent by comparison.

The mindset is different. In high school, for example, he would look ahead, pick out key games on the schedule and concern himself with how good an opponent was. He would wonder about whom he would be blocking, whether that player was good, and whether he was "a tough guy," said Davies.

During a game, "you're talking trash to the other team. 'Millard South is a bunch of punks,' stuff like that," he said with a laugh. Such high school rivalries have long since been set aside.

Four years later, his focus is himself and his team.

"I don't even know our schedule," he said. He knows Nebraska has 13 regular-season games, with a possibility of the Big 12 championship game being 14 and a bowl game being 15.

But "I don't know the order of our games. I'm not sure. I could tell you who we play, probably, but not the exact order of where we're going to be in five or six weeks."

He has learned to be concerned only about the here and now, taking it one day at a time, praying he doesn't get badly injured, and "hopefully, you can play every game," he said.

Davies didn't play in every game last season, his first as Nebraska's starting fullback. He didn't make the trip to Kansas because of an ankle injury, suffered on his only carry against Texas Tech. He tried to come back the next week against Oklahoma, lasting only one series.

Injuries are an inescapable fact of football life, something he learned from experience, missing much of his junior season in high school because of a torn left ACL. But the aches and pains, commonly described as "minor," that are constant companions now were unknown then.

If his experience has been typical, and there's no reason to think it hasn't been, Davies was naïve about the physical demands of major college football. "You've got injuries popping up that you never even thought about in high school," he said. "Things happen, kind of one injury after another."

The injuries usually aren't severe enough to sideline a player. But "you could probably go around to the whole

team and there would be one thing that every guy would say, 'This is bothering me right now' or 'That doesn't feel so good.' In high school, we didn't even tape our ankles," said Davies.

"It's just night and day. You wouldn't even think about stepping out here without your ankles taped up. I guess you're just more . . . kind of innocent. Your body's a little bit fresher."

Even during his first season at Nebraska, when he red-shirted, "I don't remember getting banged up and feeling different things, my body, shoulders, knees being sore," he said.

Veteran players often joke among themselves when they see eager freshmen who have no idea of the physical and emotional demands of a 12- or 13-game, regular-season schedule.

When Davies arrived at Nebraska, he depended more on emotion than he does now. He was more of a "yeller, trying to get myself psyched up, and keep myself pumped up."

He didn't change that approach until his second season, after he had shed the redshirt.

He has learned that too much pre-game emotion "just makes you tired. You work yourself up and then when you get on the field, you're going to hyperventilate," he said. "You just trust yourself that you're going to be ready when you get in the game, that you're going to be able to turn it on."

He listens to music on headphones before games, usually soft music, though nothing in particular. He uses the music to seal himself off from the locker room, to control his environment.

His thoughts turn to introspection, contemplating what he has gone through to get where he is and what he wants to accomplish. "There's always music before a game," he said.

"But I'm going to do the same whether I listen to Metallica, or Enya."

Football was so much different at Millard North. The thought of cortisone shots to deal with the pain of injuries never crossed his mind, for example. Now he'll get the shots if need be.

"You don't take it lightly, but it's a different perspective on what you would do to get yourself ready to play," said Davies. "You just do it. I mean, it's the world we're in."

"I'm willing to do it to my body and take my chances. I don't want to stop playing."

Even though the game has changed, it hasn't lost its appeal. ■



Judd Davies became the starting fullback as a sophomore in 2001.



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1 Year Later

Now a member of the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame, Crouch focuses on his future as an NFL wide receiver



Terry DOUGLASS

ERIC CROUCH ALL BUT ADMITS that in his heart, he might be having a little trouble coming to grips with the idea of being an ex-Husker.

"Watching that first game on TV was kind of a shock because I thought I should be playing," Crouch said of Nebraska's Aug. 24 season opener against Arizona State. "But time passes by and it goes by pretty quick."

Indeed, it does. Crouch's days as the Cornhuskers' all-everything quarterback are now over.

A year ago at this time, the Omaha native was starting his successful Heisman Trophy run and was helping guide Nebraska to an 11-2 record and a spot in the national championship game. Now, Crouch's attention is focused on finding his niche with the NFL's St. Louis Rams — as a wide receiver.

But for a few moments during Nebraska's Aug. 31 game against Troy State, Cornhusker fans — and Crouch — got to take one last dazzling open-field run down memory lane.

Before the game, Crouch was recognized as one of 12 new inductees into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame. At halftime, he became the 14th player in Husker history to have his jersey retired.

"It's definitely a big honor," Crouch said. "I couldn't be happier than to have it happen at a place like Nebraska with all these people and being from Nebraska."

"It fell into place, having a great career here at Nebraska. It's been an amazing run. This is a great place to have everything happen, right here at home."

During his 3 1/2 seasons as a starter, Crouch amassed an NCAA Division I-A record for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback with 59. He also owns the school and Big 12 Conference quarterback rushing record with 3,434 yards and the Nebraska single-game regular season quarterback rushing record with 191 yards last season against Missouri.

Crouch's senior year was his finest as a runner. He rushed for 1,115 yards and became just the 13th quarterback to NCAA I-A history to rush and pass for more than 1,000 yards in the same season.

Winning football games was another area where Crouch excelled. Including bowl games, he was 35-7 as a starter at Nebraska. His victory total surpassed the school record of 33 wins set by Tommie Frazier.

As Crouch's framed No. 7 home jersey was presented to him at midfield by Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne and Chancellor Harvey Perlman, images of Crouch's most remarkable feats played on the giant Husker Vision screens. Many of the 77,000-plus at Memorial Stadium stood and applauded, welcoming Crouch to an exclusive club that includes the likes of Tom Novak, Johnny Rodgers, Mike Rozier, Frazier, Dave Rimington, Grant Wistrom and Frazier.

"That's just kind of breath-taking. I never expected that to happen," Crouch said of having his jersey retired. "There were a lot of things that happened in my career here at Nebraska that I didn't think ever would. A lot of this stuff has kind of hit me by surprise, but I've really loved every moment that I've had here."

In a different way, Crouch is also enjoying his new venture in St. Louis.

"It's an exciting place to be," Crouch said. "Ever since I got there, I knew that it would be the right place for me. They've got a creative offense. The players that are there right now — the receivers, the quarterbacks — all are great people, all are great athletes, and I'm learning a lot from them every day."

"When I go to practice and I'm out on the field, I'm learning, and I'm learning from the best."

Despite learning a new position, Crouch's biggest hurdle has been a severe bruise to his right thigh suffered late in the

Rams' preseason game against the Tennessee Titans. The injury was more severe than Crouch had anticipated, and he had to have fluid drained from his thigh twice in the three weeks following the injury. Crouch said he's feeling better, but he was held out of St. Louis' preseason finale at Kansas City.

Crouch believes part of the reason for his injury was due to his position change.

"When I had the ball in my hands, I was able to use my vision, and I could see everything," Crouch said. "I would know where to go, and I would know who to run into and what angle to hit them at. I learned and that was just something I became used to."

"Now, I've got to turn my back a lot when the ball is in the air, and I don't see it coming."

Crouch said he needs to learn when to cut routes short and when to get down to avoid the

big hit.

"That will come with time," Crouch said.

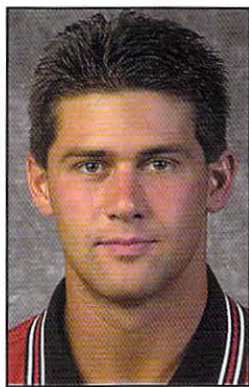
No matter what happens in the pro ranks, Crouch's place in Husker history will remain secure. And Aug. 31, Crouch was able to take a night off to rejoin the Husker family and — just like a fan — air some of his views on the 2002 Huskers.

Despite some of Nebraska's early season offensive struggles, Crouch said he's been impressed with the play of his successor, Jammal Lord.

"A lot of people asked me about Jammal, and I told them he is going to be a great player," Crouch said. "He's a great athlete, and he's going to be a great leader."

As for predictions that Nebraska's football program is on the decline, Crouch responded with a quick laugh.

"I was here for five years, and every year there were doomsayers," Crouch said. "You just have to go out on the field and prepare to win. That's what this program is all about. They always will do that." ■



Eric Crouch became the 14th ex-Husker to have his jersey retired.

Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the Grand Island Independent. He can be reached at tdbdouglass@netzero.net.

Goals

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Hitting The Sweet Spot

Summer kicking camp in Pennsylvania helps Brown prepare for senior season



Curt McKEEVER

THIS IS WHERE Josh Brown really gets things rolling.

It's a June weekend, and the Nebraska senior is in Allentown, Pa., among 50 college kickers participating at a camp conducted by former Green Bay Packers punter Bill Renner.

Twice a day, a dozen kicking coaches put the students through the wringer, watching them send footballs end over end, and passing along trade secrets.

Brown, who has connected on nearly two of every three field goals he's attempted in his first three seasons as a Husker, soaks it all in.

"That's when I really started to take the game more seriously," he said.

Yeah, you can bet Brown is looking forward to going back to Pennsylvania for the Huskers' game at Penn State.

It may sound a little quirky. But you know how kickers can be.

Brown has attended other camps since his high school days in Foyil, Okla. But sometimes, he said, he'd leave more confused than he was when he arrived.

Not this time. Brown said he picked up a couple key tips that he apparently put to good use in Nebraska's first two games.

For starters, he learned that he didn't have a strong enough backswing.

"I just barely pulled my leg back, so I wasn't getting a lot of power on my field goals," he said. "Now I'm really pulling my leg back, and I'm swinging through extremely hard, instead of trying to finesse the ball."

Brown is also concentrating on a strong follow through.

"It's like golf," he said. "I'm concentrating on a good, firm backswing and keeping my eye on the ball and having a good, clean follow through."

Against Arizona State, Brown connected on field goals of 40 and 42 yards. It marked the first time in his career that he's hit from 40 yards or more twice in a game.

Brown, who has taken a longer approach to his kickoffs, also boomed seven of nine into the end zone, leaving the Sun Devils with just 16 kickoff return yards.

In the following days, Brown received congratulatory phone calls from kickers from Duke and Oklahoma State. He also got calls or e-mails from some of the coaches he met in Pennsylvania.

"The work I've done this summer is paying off," he said. "I've always had the strength, but it's a matter of hitting the ball correctly, every time. You have to hit that sweet spot."

Brown continued to drive the ball straight and far during the Huskers' game against Troy State.

Four of his six kickoffs went for touchbacks, and he nailed a 34-yard field goal. He also hit from 41 yards out, but Nebraska opted to take that off the board, as a roughing-the-

kicker penalty gave the Huskers a first down.

"You want to find that special touch," Brown said. "There's so much to it. I still don't know everything. And there's so much more you can learn. It's just a matter of adapting and filtering out information, and keeping what works for me and making my own style."

Given the complex nature of kicking, it's no wonder Brown hasn't been immune to slumps.

As a redshirt freshman in 1999, he was set to handle kickoff duties. But he suffered a groin pull and was replaced by Dan Hadenfeldt.

"It was like, from that point on, I absolutely forgot how to do kickoffs," Brown said. "For the next two years, I couldn't hit a ball anywhere."

So Chace Long handled kickoffs in 2000, while Brown kicked field goals, struggling through his worst season by going just 5-for-10.

While he made all 60 of his PAT kicks, Brown experienced the low point of his career that season when he missed a 28-yarder at Kansas State that proved to be the difference in a 29-28 loss.

He did come back to hit a 29-yarder as time expired in a 34-32 win against Colorado, but still admits, "I didn't have my game face on that season. I didn't have my mind right. I had a lot of distractions and things I was worried about outside of football."

Last season, Brown was left off the 105-man preseason roster for disciplinary reasons. When he rejoined the team, he served a one-game suspension. Showing perseverance, he won back his kickoff duties in the fourth game, against Rice, and his field-goal job in the fifth, against Missouri.

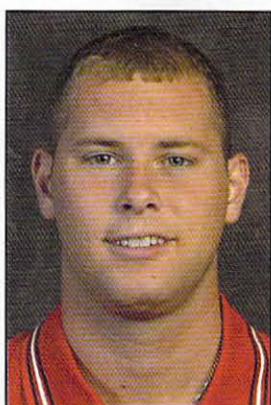
He booted about 60 percent of his kickoffs out of the end zone last season. But he made 10 of 14 field-goal attempts in addition to going 34 of 37 on PAT tries.

"I kicked well — I really hit the ball well and was pretty accurate," he said. "It was definitely an 'up' from my sophomore year."

But as Brown was reminded of at the Allentown camp this summer, "as a kicker, you need to stay focused or you can really lose a lot of ground."

That's why, before games, he concentrates on staying low-key. While many of his teammates crank out music that will test the best of speakers, Brown turns down the volume and mellow out.

"Something to keep my heartbeat down," he said. "You have to approach the ball in a calm, smooth manner. If you come at the ball overly aggressive, it won't work. It's just like swinging a golf club. If you swing too hard and lose focus on your technique . . . something bad's going to happen." ■



Josh Brown hit 10-of-14 field-goal attempts last season as a junior.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.

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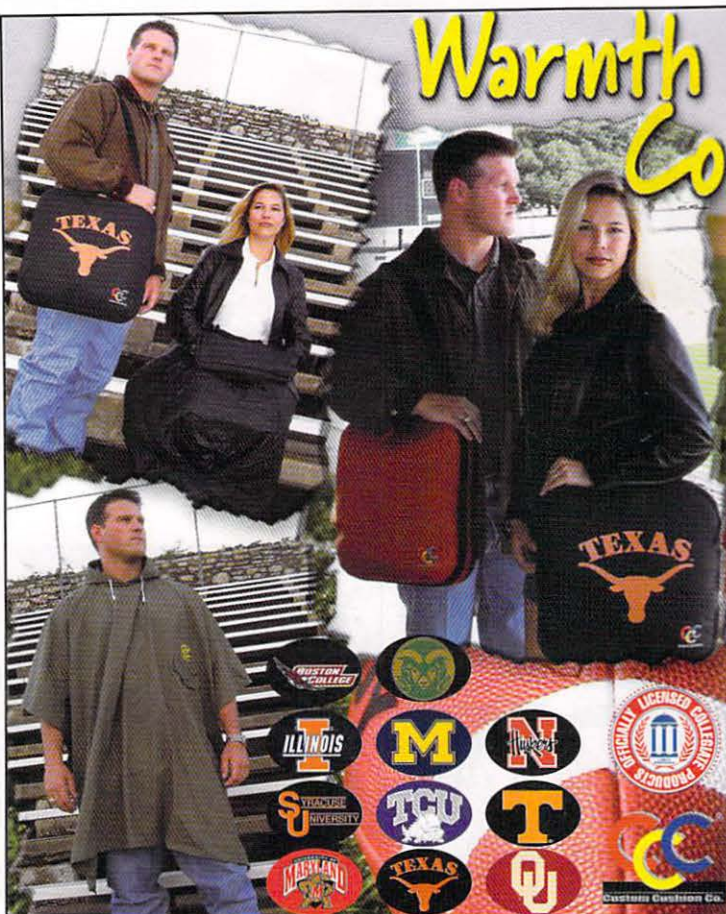
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HIL12

You've Got to be Physical

Nebraska's running backs have to be ready to go into contact

By Mike Babcock

The message is clear from the time Nebraska's running backs begin pre-game teamwork near the 50-yard line, particularly when they go through pass-pro and attack-blocking drills.

The aggression of those drills can attract the attention of opposing defenders, who might lose their concentration, or even be intimidated by the violence of the collisions.

"That's what makes you a good running back at Nebraska," said Dahrran Diedrick. "You've got to be physical. You put on pads because you run into people. That's the point of the game."

That's not the only measure of a running back, of course. "You don't just go into contact to be going into contact," Coach Frank Solich said. "Down and distance enters into it. You have to be able to make the big play. All of a sudden something opens up, you've got to be able to take advantage."

But without an opening, or not much of one, a running back has to



Senior I-back Dahrran Diedrick (above and right) was the Big 12's leading rusher last season. "You put on pads because you run into people," Diedrick said. "That's the point of the game."

be ready to go into contact.

"You've got to understand if you're going to be a run-oriented offense, you've got to get up the field, avoid long-yardage situations," said Solich. And that means running inside the tackles.

Nebraska's offense has been run-oriented for the majority of the past 40 seasons. The Cornhuskers have led the nation in rushing 15 times since Bob Devaney became the head coach in 1962, and they have averaged 200 or more yards rushing in all but four of those 40 seasons.

The first of the 15 rushing titles came in 1963, when Mike Corgan coached Nebraska's running backs.

Corgan's nickname was "Iron Mike." It described his no-nonsense approach.

Solich was a sophomore in 1963, and a senior in 1965, when Nebraska again led the nation in rushing, averaging 290 yards per game on the ground. He was the starting fullback in a backfield that included Harry Wilson, a 5-foot-11, 196-pound half-back nicknamed "Light Horse."

Wilson led the Cornhuskers in rushing in 1965, taking the lead from Solich, who was hampered by an ankle injury, by running for 160 yards in the final game against Oklahoma.

"Light Horse" finished with 672



yards rushing, Solich with 580.

The third-leading rusher was Ron Kirkland, also a halfback. Though nicknamed "Skinny," the 6-foot-2, 213-pound Kirkland was heavier than Nebraska's starting offensive guards.

"We used a lot of big backs," Solich said. "Mike (Corgan) didn't particularly like my size. I showed

up and jumped in with those guys. Mike didn't give me any breaks. And he shouldn't have."

Corgan emphasized going into contact, breaking tackles. And his players drilled to that end.

"Coach Corgan was not a fancy guy," said Solich.

Cornhusker running backs were exposed to Iron Mike's philosophy

for 20 seasons. Solich succeeded him in 1983, but continued to demand physical play from those he coached.

Dave Gillespie returned to Nebraska to coach the running backs in 1998, when Solich replaced Tom Osborne as head coach. Gillespie also learned the physical approach under Iron Mike.

Corgan's icy stare could intimi-

date a young running back. In his first varsity scrimmage as a freshman, Gillespie took a handoff on an iso and because the middle was clogged with Blackshirts bounced to the outside and raced into the end zone. "I was on top of the world," Gillespie recalled.

"But when I got back to the huddle, Mike chewed me out about bouncing to the side like that. 'You'd better hammer it up in there.' That was my first taste of what big-time football was all about."

Though Gillespie doesn't have Corgan's omni-present pipe to punctuate his words, he incorporates some of Corgan's philosophy. "We want to lead with being physical," he said.

"We also want to have the ability to make people miss and make big plays. But if people don't respect you as being a physical back, it's hard to set up some of those other things you do."

That suits the 6-foot, 225-pound Diedrick just fine. His approach parallels that of the late Walter Payton, said Diedrick. "You hit before you get hit. That's why I play football, I guess. If I wanted to play something that wasn't physical, I would have played basketball or baseball."

Thunder Collins learned Nebraska's style the hard way. "I got hit in the mouth a couple of times, had to be a quick learner," he said. "It's a tradition here, just to be physical as a team."

"For an I-back, you have to be physical, no running out of bounds."

Every young running back quickly finds out how it's going to be. If he doesn't have the size, or he's lanky the way Collins was, he has to run low, be aware of his pad level, and deliver the blows.

The backs go through blocking drills in which they line up against each other. "We just stand there and run into each other," Diedrick said. "There's no way you can shy away from getting hit."

"You've got to stand in there and take it."

Collins told freshman I-back David Horne he would find himself matched against a fullback at some point during the blocking drills and if he didn't stay low, he would get knocked down.

"A couple of times at the beginning, we had to yell at him, 'David, keep your feet,'" said Diedrick. "I guess he was being too loose and getting knocked on his butt. But he picked it up quick."

"As a group, we really look for guys who are physical. I think not just the coaches demand it but the group as a whole, young to old, we just demand it. We're physical."

Football coaches have long reminded players that in a collision, the one going the hardest is least likely to get hurt. Diedrick accepts that credo. "I guess it's true," he said.

"It's either true or coaches are

lying to make you go hard. But that's the philosophy I take, go hard and don't be worrying about getting hurt. I really like players that go hard."

So do Solich and Gillespie, as Corgan did before them.

"When a new guy comes in and I notice he's real physical to start off with, he might make mistakes but he's being real physical, that's somebody you can go to war with," Diedrick said.

"They're not going to be scared. They're going to go to the limit."

That's the message conveyed in those pre-game drills near mid-field. ■

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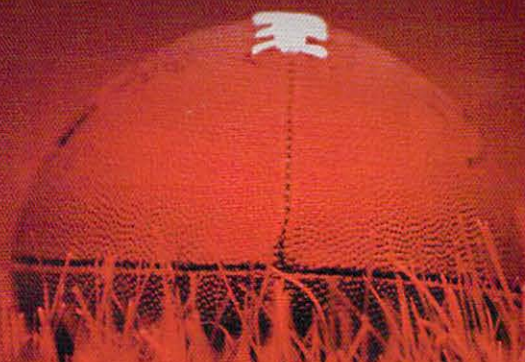


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'Twilight Zone'

Having a Blackshirt means Husker senior Terpening doesn't have to imagine anymore

Imagine if you will . . . Aaron Terpening found himself in the "Twilight Zone" on the Tuesday before Nebraska's opening game. That was the day he pulled on a black practice jersey for the first time.

The coveted jersey transported him from the invisibility he sometimes felt during two seasons on the scout team to a special feeling, based on a tradition that can be traced to the early 1960s.

Blackshirts are "distinguished," said Terpening. "They're set apart."

The senior rover has come a long way since walking on, figuratively as well as literally. Though he has always had a passion for the Cornhuskers, he was born and raised in Oregon.

That he would come so far in pursuit of a dream is evidence of a confidence that was "definitely shaken, many, many times" when he was on the scout team for a second season.

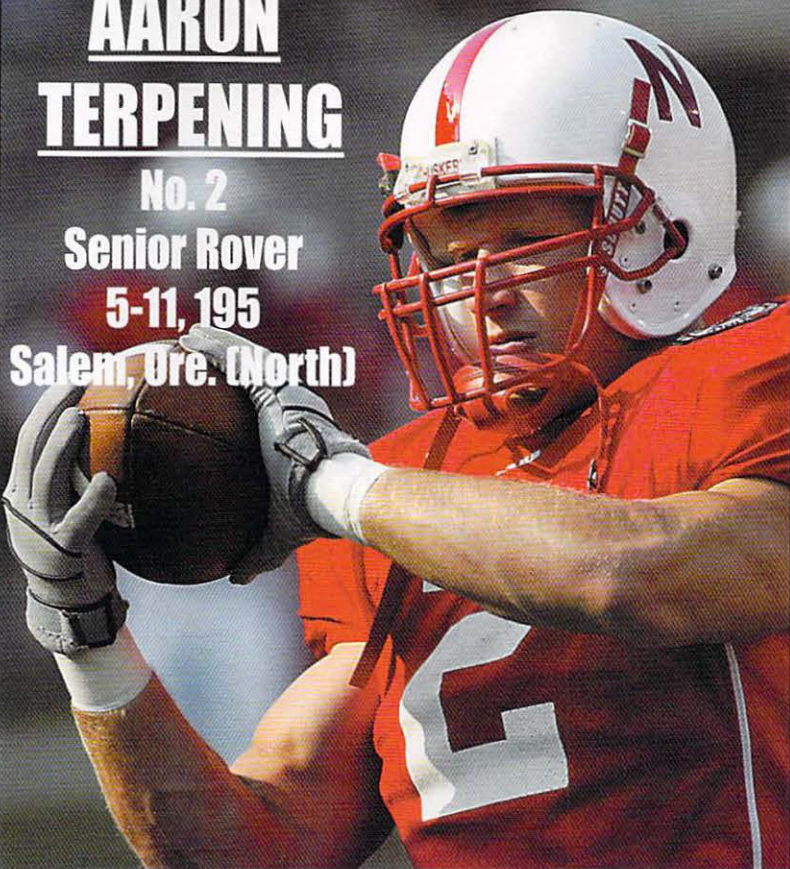
"You feel like you do your best, all you can, and yet you feel like you don't get rewarded, or you're not getting anywhere," he said. "You start to question yourself and what you're doing. Something inside me always tells me I can do it. But then you start having those questions."

His religious faith helped sustain him during that time. But it couldn't pay his walk-on bills, which added to the frustration. "You're taking out loans, paying every last penny for school," he said.

And, of course, the demands of football and school leave no time for a job.

The financial burden was lifted during the spring semester of his third year, when he was put on scholarship. But that was only temporary. Though he understood the scholar-

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ship would be for just one semester, he held out hope that he would somehow be allowed to keep it.

In the fall of his junior year, however, he was paying his own way again. "Of course it's disappointing and a bit frustrating. I'd be lying if I didn't say I was frustrated," he said.

"But I understand the coaches have to do what they have to do. I don't hold any grudges. Those are the times it really takes patience and trust to know that things will work out."

Terpening is back on scholarship now, in part for the same reason he has a black practice jersey, working his way to the top of the depth chart.

"The money thing is huge," he said. "So being on scholarship is a really good feeling because I know it's going to help my parents out a lot."

Despite the frustrations, Terpening has never lacked enthusiasm, prompting defensive backs coach George Darlington to describe him as "an exceptional-effort guy."

That effort was apparent even while he was on the scout team. Even though he was still playing on the scout team as a redshirted freshman,

"I was excited when I went to practice," he said.

"I felt like I was playing a game every day. I'd get yelled at for knocking down a running back or tipping the ball away from a receiver and knocking him down. As a scout team player, you're supposed to kind of let the other guys run over you, I guess. I just couldn't do that."

"I don't know how you can play football without hitting somebody."

If playing time were based only on aggressiveness, Terpening might

have earned a Blackshirt before this season. But there is more to playing rover than smacking somebody, a way in which he has made a significant contribution throughout his career as a special teams player.

Nebraska doesn't have special-teams awards, "but I know a couple of years for sure, our defensive staff, if there was such an award, he would have been our nominee," said Darlington.

Terpening also has been quick to help young players, even when he was a youngster himself.

"He's always been an encourager and a team player," Darlington said.

His willingness to help teammates has grown out of his own experiences. "I know how I looked up to those guys who were older than me and they had Blackshirts," said Terpening.

Now he has one — which put him in a kind of "Twilight Zone." Terpening doesn't have to imagine what having a Blackshirt means anymore, plus he is on scholarship.

When defensive coordinator Craig Bohl handed him his black practice jersey, "it was more like a feeling of responsibility, not really just a feeling of elation," he said.

Those feelings weren't imagined, they were real. ■



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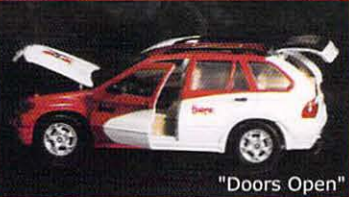
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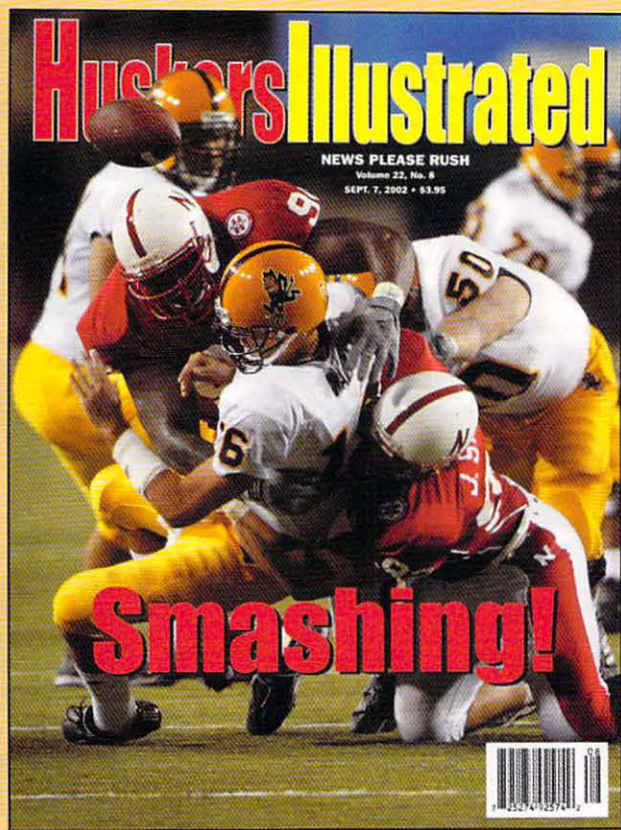
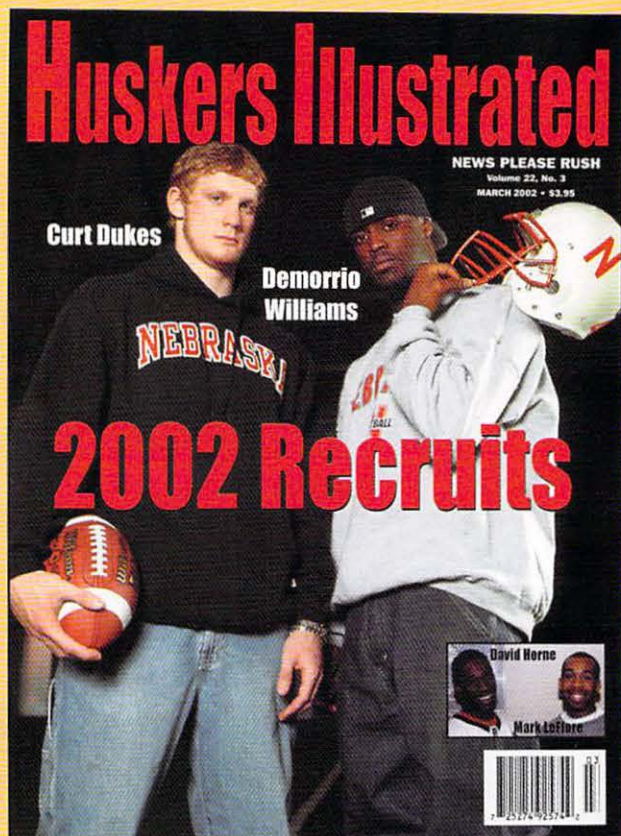
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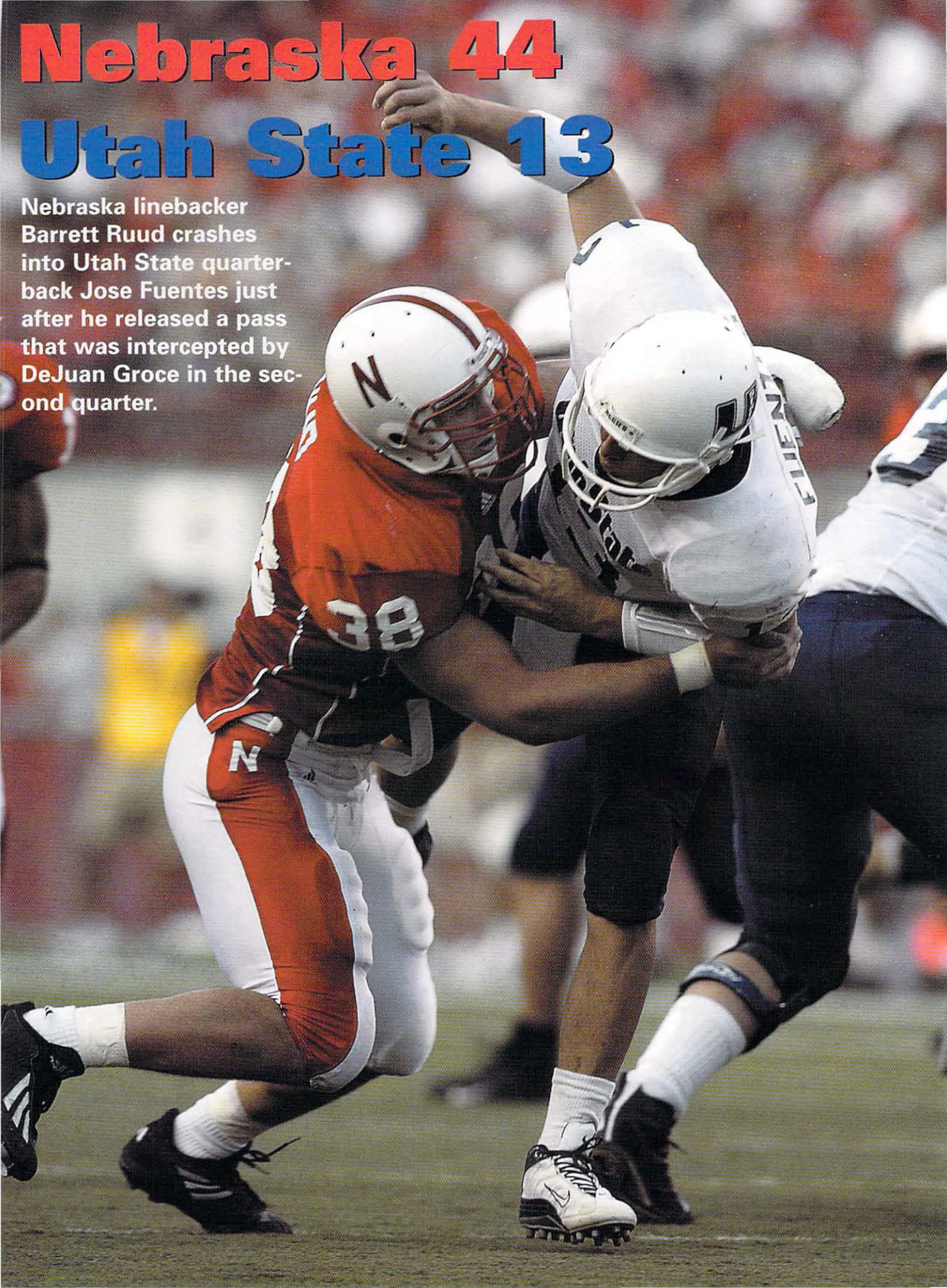
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Nebraska 44

Utah State 13

Nebraska linebacker Barrett Ruud crashes into Utah State quarterback Jose Fuentes just after he released a pass that was intercepted by DeJuan Groce in the second quarter.



More Nebraska

Freshman's TD catch one of many bright spots in win No. 3

**Stories by
Mike Babcock
Photos by
Scott Bruhn**

The other tight ends told Matt Herian he needed to work on his celebrations.

They were kidding, of course, even though his reaction had lacked flair.

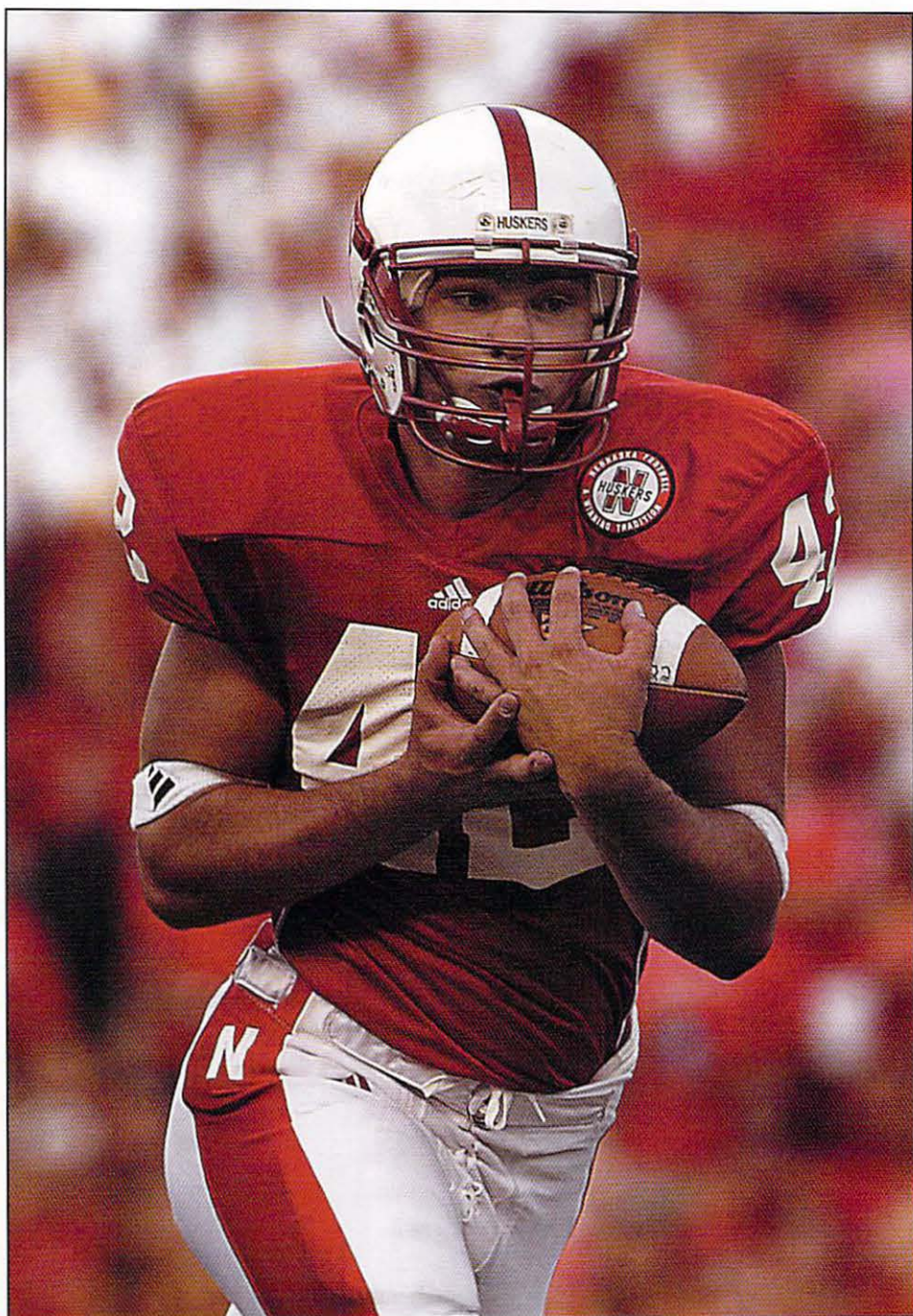
After he scored a touchdown on a 33-yard pass from Jammal Lord, just 5 seconds into the second quarter of Nebraska's 44-13 victory against Utah State, the freshman from Pierce, Neb., simply handed the ball to an official and then accepted congratulations from his teammates.

His on-the-field response didn't convey the depth of his emotion, and that hadn't changed much afterward. "I can't put it into words," he told reporters later. "It hasn't really set in."

"Growing up in Nebraska, you always think about that."

Herian's touchdown was among many feel-good aspects of the Cornhuskers' third victory, on a night that ended with a fireworks display in honor of Memorial Stadium's 250th consecutive sellout.

They rushed for 288 yards and averaged 6.1 yards per play, rushing and passing, numbers more Nebraska-like — and an encouraging way to go into the next game at Penn



True freshman tight end Matt Herian made his first career reception memorable as he gathered in a pass from Jammal Lord and scored on a play covering 33 yards.

State.

"We certainly feel a lot better than two weeks ago," said Coach Frank Solich.

Even though there's still plenty of room for improvement, according to Solich, the Cornhuskers came away

with more pluses than minuses. For example, Lord carried only nine times, compared to a combined 40 times in the first two games. "We did try to limit his carries a little more," Solich said.

"The way they were defending us

raska-Like



Nebraska nose tackle Le Kevin Smith (66) sacks Utah State quarterback Jose Fuentes. The Huskers sacked Fuentes six times for 40 yards in losses.

in the second half, we could have given him a bunch."

But it was easy to resist the urge, given a 37-7 lead at halftime.

Had the score been closer, "we would have called the game a little differently," he said.

Lord, who averaged 6.6 yards per carry and scored touchdowns on runs of 1 and 28 yards in addition to passing for two touchdowns, played through the end of the third quarter then gave way to sophomore Mike Stuntz, who wasn't the only young

Husker Player of the Game

Lord Finds Wide Open Receivers

Jammal Lord made his first touchdown pass to split end Wilson Thomas sound easy. "I just saw him wide open," said Lord. "I had some good time and just made a pass."

The ball was on target, and Thomas scored, on a 23-yarder.

Less than 5 minutes later, Lord would team with tight end Matt Herian on a 33-yard touchdown pass. Again, he just saw his receiver "wide open and made a pass," he said.

Lord was certainly efficient in his play. He threw only 12 passes, completing six for 105 yards and the two touchdowns. And he carried only nine times for 59 yards and two more touchdowns.



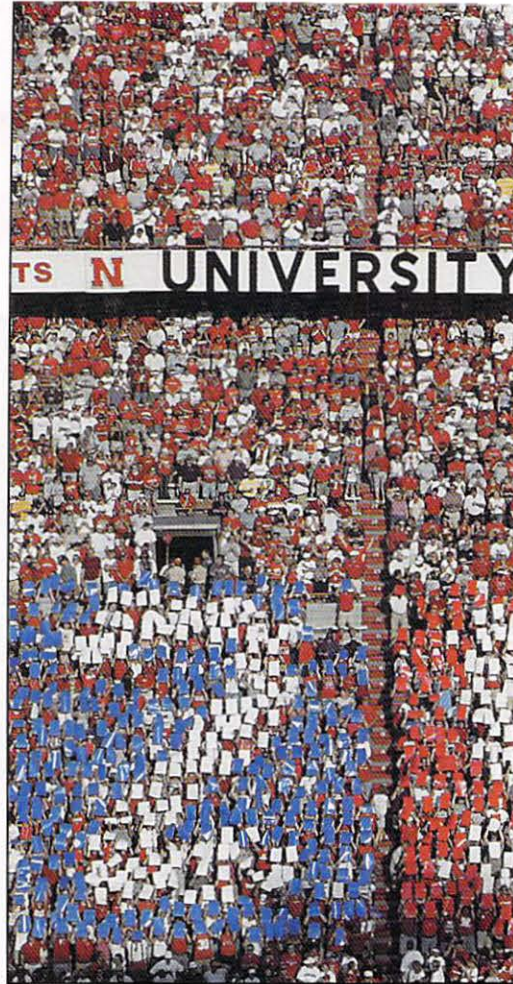
Jammal Lord

Running or passing for touchdowns, "it doesn't really matter to me," he said.

The bottom line is winning. That's been the underlying theme during his post-game interviews each of the first three weeks. "We did good," he said. "We won, so that's all that really matters."

Lord said he and the offense have made marked improvement since the opening game.

"Every game is a building block," he said, picking up on another theme. ■



Utah State was plagued by poor field position and linebacker Jesse Busta (left) as he tackles Husker of 78,176 was on hand at Memorial Stadium for the game. The streak began on Nov. 10, 1990, in Bob Devaney's first season.

player given an opportunity with the comfortable lead.

Solich used 83 players, more than in either of the first two games.

As was the case in each of those games, special teams played a significant role in the outcome. Despite returning two punts for touchdowns against Troy State, DeJuan Groce was able to return four punts for 66 yards. "Obviously, we didn't want to kick the ball to him," Utah State Coach Mick Dennehy said. "One of the nice returns we didn't. It kind of rolled around and he got to it."

Groce also got to two passes, his third and fourth interceptions in the last two weeks.

Both of Groce's interceptions set up touchdowns.

Kyle Larson's punting also was a significant factor in field position favorable to Nebraska. He averaged 57.2 yards on four punts, with a career-long 71-yarder.

"If he'd have been an average punter, we would have had to play

even greater defense," Solich said. "I'm not sure if it's a school record or not. If it's not, it should be."

Actually, it was just short of Dan Hadenfeldt's single-game record 57.6.

Going into the game, the Cornhuskers' concern on defense was Utah State's variety of offensive alignments. But the Aggies struggled most of the night under heavy pressure.

Quarterback Jose Fuentes completed only 16-of-38, with three interceptions — cornerback Pat Ricketts picked off the third — and was sacked six times for 40 yards in losses.

Despite being double-teamed, and held on occasion, rush end Chris Kelsay had two of the sacks and broke up one pass. "A defensive line works as a unit more than people think," he said. "Some of the sacks I got were shared by some of my teammates, and I have to give credit to them."

The same was true for the interceptions. On Groce's first, middle linebacker Barrett Ruud hit Fuentes just as he released the ball. On another pass, strongside linebacker Scott Shanle hit Fuentes as the ball left his hand, sending the ball rocketing off Utah State offensive guard Luis Trujillo.

"We were pleased overall with the pressure," defensive coordinator Craig Bohl said.

For the second week in a row, an untested middle linebacker had to step up. When Ruud went to the sideline with a broken left hand, suffered on the third play from scrimmage against Troy State, sophomore Chad Sievers came on. This time, it was Steve Safranek, who played the second half.

Ruud was "just a little bit nicked up," said Bohl. And Sievers was held out of the game because of a leg injury. With Penn State up next, the Cornhuskers were "in a hold mode on him."



penalties, including a 5-yard facemask call against back Cory Ross in the first quarter. A record crowd of 78,176 marked the 250th consecutive sellout, noted by a card since 1962, which was a Homecoming game against

None of the 83 players Nebraska used was happier than Herian, who arrived for two-a-day practices figuring he would be redshirted and didn't play in the opener against Arizona State.

"When they recruited me, they told me, 'You're probably going to have to redshirt,' " said Herian, whose goals for the season were to improve as a blocker and get "a lot bigger."

He stands 6-foot-4 and is listed at 215 pounds.

Saturday night, many in a record crowd of 78,176 probably had to check their programs to find out who the Cornhusker in the No. 42 jersey on offense was.

When he broke into the open and saw the ball, his reaction was, "Don't drop it."

He didn't. And now instead of being concerned only about improving his blocking and gaining weight, he also has to work on his touchdown celebrations ... just kidding. ■

4TH & 1NCHES

Notes And Quotes From The Utah State Game

IMPROMPTU, ICE-WATER BATH

Defensive backs coach George Darlington got a bucket of ice water poured on him after the game, in honor of his having been a part of 300 victories as a Cornhusker assistant.

"It really is amazing," Darlington said of the victories, 255 under Tom Osborne and now 45 under Frank Solich. "First of all, you realize you've been blessed with a great program."

"It is exciting and a tribute to the program."

Darlington said it was the first time he had ever had water dumped on him.

But "I can survive it if we keep winning," he said.

Senior cornerback and co-captain DeJuan Groce accepted responsibility.

He had no choice in the matter, Groce said. "That's my coach. He's taught me a lot."



Coach Frank Solich presents George Darlington with the game ball and a plaque for being part of 300 victories.

OVER 2,000 YARDS

Senior I-back Dahrran Diedrick carried 16 times for 93 yards to go over 2,000 for his career. He now ranks 21st on the school career-rushing list, with 2,049 yards.

Diedrick doesn't begrudge the young I-backs getting opportunities.

"We've been playing a lot of running backs. I'm glad," he said. "It's just good to see all the I-backs getting on the field, doing the job." Redshirted freshman Cory Ross carried nine times for 42 yards and scored his second touchdown of the season on a 13-yard run late in the third quarter.

A FEW FIRSTS, AND BESTS

Freshman split end Ross Pilkington had his first receptions at Nebraska, catching a pass from Jammal Lord good for 9 yards and another from Mike Stuntz good for 11 yards.

Senior split end Wilson Thomas had his first run from scrimmage, taking a Lord pass - that was backward and hence officially a lateral - and gaining 9 yards.

The play was Nebraska's first from scrimmage in the game.

Kyle Larson's 71-yard punt was a personal best. His previous best was a 68-yarder against Oklahoma last season. Josh Brown kicked a 44-yard field goal to open the scoring. The field goal was Brown's fourth in four attempts this season. Three of the four have been 40 yards or longer.

Redshirted freshman nose tackles Le Kevin Smith and Titus Adams each had sacks, the first of their careers. Nebraska's six sacks total were a season high.

CONTINUING DISTRACTION

Senior I-back Thunder Collins missed the Utah State game because of an extended suspension resulting from his violation of unspecified NCAA rules. Coach Frank Solich announced on the Wednesday before the game that Collins was being suspended for four games. He also was suspended for the Troy State game.

Collins is ineligible until the NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement Staff restores his eligibility. The NCAA could reduce or increase the number of games he is suspended.

According to a sports information office release, Collins' violation did not involve a booster or anyone on the Nebraska staff. As a result, the university did not violate NCAA rules.

NO WASHINGTON

Cornerback Fabian Washington, a true freshman who started against Troy State as part of one of many situational defenses Nebraska uses, missed the game to attend his grandmother's funeral. Washington, who is from Bradenton, Fla., was to return on the Sunday after the game.

FIREWORKS

Fireworks displays at halftime and after the game were in honor not only of the 250th consecutive sellout at Memorial Stadium but also to salute those who died on Sept. 11, 2001. ■

2002 Schedule

1	Aug. 24	Arizona State (1-1), W 48-10	1-0
2	Aug. 31	Troy State (0-2), W 31-16	2-0
3	Sept. 7	Utah State (0-2), W 44-13	3-0
4	Sept. 14	@ Penn State (1-0), 7 p.m., ABC	
5	Sept. 28	@ Iowa State (2-1), TBA	
6	Oct. 5	McNeese State (2-0), TBA	
7	Oct. 12	Missouri (2-0), TBA	
8	Oct. 19	@ Oklahoma State (1-1), TBA	
9	Oct. 26	@ Texas A&M (2-0), TBA	
10	Nov. 2	Texas (1-0), TBA	
11	Nov. 9	Kansas (Homecoming) (0-1), TBA	
12	Nov. 16	@ Kansas State (2-0), TBA	
13	Nov. 29	Colorado (1-1), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
	Dec. 7	Big 12 Championship at Houston, Texas, 7 p.m., ABC	

Upcoming Opponents' Schedules

Penn State (1-0)		Iowa State (2-1)	
Aug. 31	Central Florida, W 27-24	Aug. 24	Florida State, L 38-31
Sept. 14	Nebraska	Aug. 31	Kansas, W 45-3
Sept. 21	Louisiana Tech	Sept. 7	Tennessee Tech, W 58-6
Sept. 28	Iowa	Sept. 14	@ Iowa
Oct. 5	@ Wisconsin	Sept. 21	Troy State
Oct. 12	@ Michigan	Sept. 28	Nebraska
Oct. 19	Northwestern	Oct. 12	Texas Tech
Oct. 26	@ Ohio State	Oct. 19	at Oklahoma
Nov. 2	Illinois	Oct. 26	at Texas
Nov. 9	Virginia	Nov. 2	Missouri
Nov. 16	@ Indiana	Nov. 9	at Kansas State
Nov. 23	Michigan State	Nov. 16	at Colorado
		Nov. 23	Connecticut

Big 12 at a Glance

Saturday, Sept. 7
 Nebraska 44, Utah State 13
 Iowa State 58, Tennessee Tech 6
 Missouri 41, Ball State 6
 Oklahoma State 45, Northern Iowa 10
 Texas A&M 14, Pittsburgh 12
 Kansas at UNLV
 Kansas State 68, Louisiana-Monroe 0
 Colorado 34, San Diego State 14
 Baylor 50, Samford 12
 Texas Tech 24, SMU 14
 Oklahoma 37, Alabama 27

Saturday, Sept. 14
 Nebraska at Penn State
 Iowa State at Iowa
 Missouri at Bowling Green
 UCLA at Oklahoma State
 Texas at North Carolina
 Southwest Missouri State at Kansas
 Eastern Illinois at Kansas State
 USC at Colorado
 Baylor at New Mexico
 Mississippi at Texas Tech
 UTEP at Oklahoma

Game 4

At Penn State Sept. 14

Location: University Park, Pa.

Enrollment: 40,828

2002 record: 1-0

Coach: Joe Paterno, 37th year

Series: Penn State leads 6-5



7 p.m. CDT, ABC

Beaver Stadium, University Park, Pa.

Nittany Lion to Watch

Defensive tackle Jimmy Kennedy was a first-team All-Big Ten selection last year and should be among the top defensive tackles in the nation. The 6-5, 330-pound Kennedy was projected as a late first or early second-round pick in the 2002 NFL Draft, but opted to return for his fifth year. A three-year starter, Kennedy had 51 tackles with eight tackles for loss last year.



Quick Facts

Legendary Coach Joe Paterno is in his 37th season, with a 328-96-3 record. In his 53rd season on the staff, Paterno eclipsed Bear Bryant's NCAA Division I-A record of 323 victories last season and stands third in all-time wins among NCAA coaches across all four divisions.

The Nittany Lions have been idle since opening the season with a 27-24 win over Central Florida Aug. 31. The game wasn't as close as the final score indicated, with the Knights adding two late touchdowns as time ran out.

Senior tailback Larry Johnson is the older brother of junior wide receiver Tony Johnson, and their father Larry is the team's defensive line coach.

On Deck

At Iowa State Sept. 28

Location: Ames, Iowa

Enrollment: 27,823

2002 record: 2-1

Coach: Dan McCarney, 8th year

Series: Nebraska leads 80-14-2



Time TBA

Trice Stadium, Ames, Iowa

Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

SE 9	Wilson Thomas***	6-6	215	Sr.
19	John Klem**	6-0	210	Sr.
LT 51	Richie Incognito	6-3	295	RFr.
69	Nick Piovato	6-3	300	So.
LG 78	Mike Erickson*	6-4	295	So.
55	Junior Tagoe**	6-2	295	Jr.
C 52	John Garrison***	6-4	290	Sr.
79	Josh Sewell	6-2	300	Jr.
RG 59	Wes Cody**	6-2	305	Sr.
73	Scott Koethe**	6-5	290	Sr.
RT 68	Dan Vili Waldrop**	6-5	315	Jr.
67	Nate Kolterman**	6-3	310	Sr.
TE 99	Aaron Golliday***	6-4	290	Sr.
86	Kyle Ringenberg*	6-4	240	Sr.
QB 10	Jammal Lord**	6-2	210	Jr.
16	Mike Stuntz*	6-1	200	So.
FB 4	Judd Davies*	6-0	255	Jr.
45	Steve Kriewald**	5-10	255	So.
IB 30	Dahrran Diedrick***	6-0	225	Sr.
22	Cory Ross	5-6	205	RFr.
WB 89	Troy Hasselbrook***	6-4	215	Sr.
81	Ben Cornelsen**	5-10	190	Sr.
PK 26	Josh Brown***	6-2	190	Sr.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LR 57	Chris Kelsay***	6-5	255	Sr.
92	Justin Smith***	6-4	265	Sr.
NT 59	Ryon Bingham*	6-3	280	Jr.
66	La Kevin Smith	6-2	300	RFr.
DT 55	Jon Clanton***	6-2	290	Sr.
or 94	Patrick Kabongo**	6-6	305	Jr.
RR 98	Demolne Adams**	6-2	260	Sr.
88	Trevor Johnson**	6-4	250	Jr.
SLB 43	Scott Shanley***	6-2	240	Sr.
47	Ira Cooper*	6-2	220	So.
MLB 38	Barrett Ruud*	6-2	240	So.
54	Chad Sievers	6-3	225	So.
WLB 7	Demorrio Williams	6-1	205	Jr.
or 17	T.J. Hollowell**	6-0	220	Jr.
LCB 28	Pat Ricketts**	5-11	180	Jr.
or 1	Lornell McPherson*	5-9	175	So.
FS 21	Phillip Bland*	5-11	205	So.
31	Jerrell Pippens**	6-2	195	Jr.
ROV 2	Aaron Terpening***	5-11	190	Sr.
40	Lannie Hopkins	6-2	210	So.
RCB 5	DeJuan Groce***	5-10	190	Sr.
23	Shane Siegel	6-2	215	RFr.
P 19	Kyle Larson	6-0	195	Jr.

PENN STATE OFFENSE

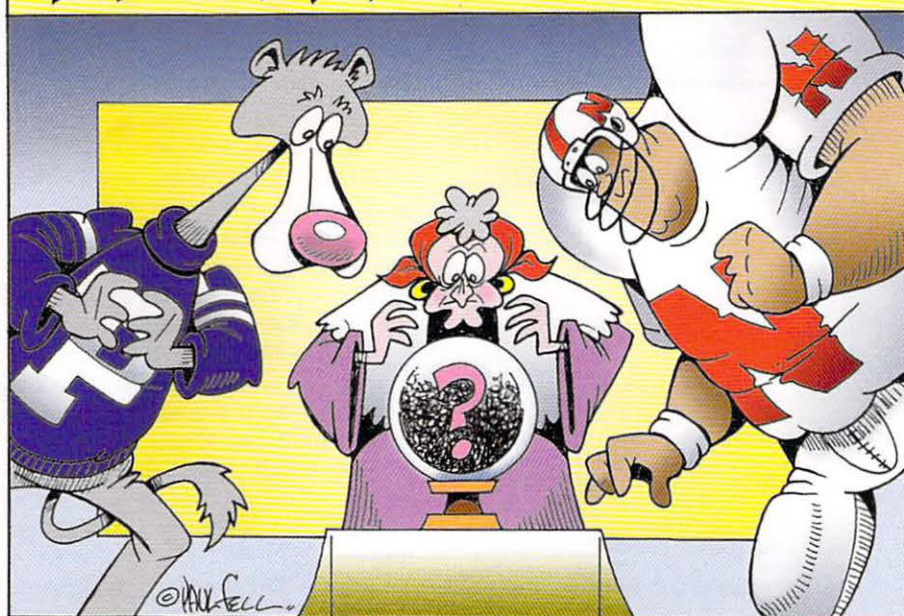
WR 11	Tony Johnson*	5-11	197	Jr.
19	Gerald Smith	5-10	181	So.
LT 72	Gus Felder*	6-5	321	Sr.
59	Eric Rickenbach*	6-5	298	Sr.
LG 77	E.Z. Smith	6-3	287	RFr.
or 75	Chris McKelvy*	6-3	326	Jr.
C 63	Joe Iorio**	6-3	297	Sr.
54	Davis Scott	6-2	288	So.
RG 50	Tyler Lenda**	6-3	293	Sr.
54	Scott Davis	6-2	288	So.
RT 64	Matt Schmitt**	6-4	301	Sr.
76	Damone Jones	6-4	305	Jr.
TE 93	Casey Williams	5-11	237	Jr.
33	Mike Lukac*	6-2	251	Jr.
QB 7	Zack Mills*	6-2	220	So.
12	Michael Robinson	6-3	231	RFr.
TB 5	Larry Johnson**	6-2	222	Sr.
26	Mike Gasparato	5-11	206	So.
FB 42	Sean McHugh*	6-5	260	Jr.
39	Paul Jefferson*	6-1	256	Jr.
FL 24	Bryant Johnson**	6-2	201	Sr.
13	Kinta Palmer	6-4	185	RFr.
K 4	Robbie Gould*	6-0	161	So.

PENN STATE DEFENSE

LE 87	John Bronson*	6-3	265	So.
17	Lavon Chisley	6-5	261	RFr.
LT 98	Anthony Adams***	6-0	285	Sr.
60	Tyler Valoczi*	6-4	281	Sr.
RT 73	Jimmy Kennedy**	6-5	316	Sr.
99	Tim Falls*	6-3	277	Sr.
RE 81	Michael Haynes**	6-3	268	Sr.
55	Matt Rice	6-6	267	RFr.
OLB 37	LaMar Stewart*	6-1	224	So.
2	Deryck Toles*	6-0	217	Jr.
ILB 47	Gino Capone**	6-1	238	Jr.
65	Sam Ruhe*	6-5	254	Jr.
OLB 94	Derek Ware	6-3	232	So.
38	Jimi Mitchell*	6-2	226	So.
LCB 32	Bryan Scott**	6-2	218	Sr.
21	Alan Zemaitis	6-2	187	RFr.
FS 23	Shawn Mayer**	6-0	196	Sr.
18	Andrew Guman*	6-3	207	So.
HE 27	Chris Harrell*	6-2	202	So.
10	Calvin Lowry	6-0	198	Fr.
RCB 25	Rich Gardner*	5-11	182	Jr.
34	Gio Vendemia	6-0	184	RFr.
P 14	David Royer**	6-3	206	Sr.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. PENN STATE



SEPTEMBER 14, 2002

HOW GOOD ARE THE HUSKERS? HOW GOOD ARE THE NITTANY LIONS?
WE'LL FIND OUT FOR SURE IN HAPPY VALLEY!

PICKS

Brian Hill
Editor

It's the first road trip, and the Huskers must venture into a huge (100,000-seats-plus) and hostile Beaver Stadium. They also face a legendary coach in Joe Paterno. That could be a little scary, but sometimes road trips have a way of bringing a team together, without as many distractions as there are surrounding home games. And that could be something this team needs. Nebraska's offense is improving, but defense and special teams will be the difference. **Nebraska 20, Penn State 14**

Mike Babcock
Contributing Editor
On a neutral field or at

PENN STATE AT NEBRASKA

Memorial Stadium, Nebraska would be the favorite without question. The fact that this is the first road game is a complicating factor. Even so, Joe Paterno probably doesn't have sufficient resources to deal with the Cornhuskers. **Nebraska 21, Penn State 17**

Terry Douglass
Grand Island Independent
Sports Editor

Nebraska's last trip to University Park, Pa., on Sept. 25, 1982, was a thriller, but the Cornhuskers came away disappointed with a controversial 27-24 loss. Look for a little less drama this time around, as Nebraska finally puts it all together in its first road test. **Nebraska 28, Penn State 14**

Nebraska vs. Utah State

Sept. 7, 2002 • Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.

Score By Quarters

Utah State	7	0	0	6	—	13
Nebraska	17	20	7	0	—	44

Team Stats

	US	NU
First Downs	19	20
Rushing	7	13
Passing	12	6
Penalty	0	1
Rushing Attempts	30	54
Yards Gained Rushing	113	313
Yards Lost Rushing	43	25
Net Yards Rushing	70	288
Net Yards Passing	251	130
Passes Attempted	44	15
Passes Completed	19	8
Had Intercepted	3	0
Total Plays	74	69
Total Net Yards	321	418
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.3	6.1
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties-Yards	10-71	3-16
Punts-Yards	8-325	4-229
Avg. Per Punt	40.6	57.3
Punt Returns-Yards	3-17	4-66
Interceptions-Yards	0-0	3-32
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	4-69	2-50
Possession Time	30:50	29:10

Scoring

NU — Josh Brown 44-yard field goal
 NU — Judd Davies 1-yard run (Brown kick)
 NU — Wilson Thomas 23-yard pass from Jammal Lord (Brown kick)
 USU — Kevin Curtis 26-yard pass from Jose Fuentes (Dane Kidman kick)
 NU — Matt Herian 33-yard pass from Lord (Brown kick)
 NU — Lord 1-yard run (Brown kick)
 NU — Lord 28-yard run (kick failed)
 NU — Cory Ross 13-yard run (Brown kick)
 USU — Kidman 29-yard field goal
 USU — Kidman 43-yard field goal
 Att. — 78,176
 Weather — clear
 Temp. — 93



Utah State Coach Mick Dennehy reacts to one of the 10 penalties called against his Aggies.

2002 SEASON STATS

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Lord, J.	3	49	254	84.7	3
Diedrick, D.	3	49	235	78.3	2
Ross, C.	3	12	114	37.7	2
Davis, J.	3	10	81	27.0	0
Collins, T.	1	10	22	22.0	0
Simmons, M.	2	6	16	5.3	0
Kriewald, S.	3	4	13	4.3	0
Thomas, W.	3	1	9	3.0	0
Grixby, D.	2	2	6	3.0	0
Stuntz, M.	3	6	2	0.7	0
Pilkington, R.	3	1	-7	-2.3	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Lord, J.	3	19-40-1	47.5	252	3
Stuntz, M.	3	2-4-0	50.0	25	0

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Thomas, W.	3	9	80	8.9	26.7	2
Cornelsen, B.	3	2	34	17.0	11.3	0
Hasselbroek, T.	3	2	25	12.5	8.3	0
Pilkington, R.	3	2	20	10.0	6.7	0
Diedrick, D.	3	2	13	6.5	4.3	0
Bowling, J.	3	1	62	62.0	20.7	0
Herian, M.	2	1	33	33.0	16.5	1
Davis, J.	3	1	7	7.0	2.3	0
Ross, C.	3	1	3	3.0	1.0	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, J.	3	4	4	44

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	15	710	47.3	71

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	10	251	25.1	83	2

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	6	152	25.3	42	0

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Williams, D.	3	9	8	17	1-1	0	0
Ruud, B.	3	7	8	15	4-15	0	1-8
Bland, P.	3	6	5	11	1-1	0	0
Hollowell, T.	3	4	7	11	1-5	0	1-5
Bingham, R.	3	3	8	11	2-2	0	0
Shanley, S.	3	5	2	8	1-1	0	0
Smith, L.	3	6	2	8	3-8	0	1-6
Adams, T.	3	4	4	8	1-8	0	1-8

TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards	1,047	926				
Plays	211	215				
Average Per Play	5.0	4.3				
Average Per Game	349.0	308.7				
Net Rushing Yards	770	308				
Attempts	167	101				
TDs Rushing	9	3				
Net Passing Yards	277	618				
Completions	21	47				
Average Per Pass	6.3	5.4				
Average Per Catch	13.2	13.1				
Average Per Game	92.3	206.0				
TDs Passing	3	1				
Sacks By-Yards	11-96	5-30				
Fumbles-Lost	7-3	4-1				
Penalties-Yards	12-83	19-161				
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	27	34	35	27	0	123
Opponents	10	3	14	12	0	39

Individual Statistics

UTAH STATE

RUSHING LEADERS

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Samuel, J.	9	37	4.1	10	0
Watson, R.	8	25	3.1	7	0
Mullins, S.	1	24	24.0	24	0
Fieff, D.	6	24	4.0	11	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Fuentes, J.	16-38-3	42.1	214	1

RECEIVING LEADERS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Curtis, K.	6	102	17.0	26	1
Eason, J.	2	27	13.5	18	0
Coleman, G.	2	25	12.5	23	0
Samuel, J.	2	22	11.0	21	0
Jeffery, D.	2	10	5.0	7	0

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Mullins, S.	8	325	40.6	53

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Robinson, R.	3	17	5.7	11	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Robinson, R.	3	60	20.0	26	0

DEFENSE LEADERS

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Watts, R.	5	4	9	1-4	0	5-4
Busta, J.	5	3	8	0	0	0
Shank, D.	5	3	8	0	0	0
Dennis, J.	5	1	6	1-8	0	0
Glasper, J.	1	5	6	0	0	0
Jimch, A.	4	1	5	0	0	0
Chick, J.	3	2	5	1-5	0	5-5
Jackson, B.	2	0	4	0	0	0
Wilson, R.	2	0	3	0	0	0
Bala, A.	2	1	3	1-2	0	0

NEBRASKA

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Diedrick, D.	15	93	5.8	22	0
Lord, J.	9	59	6.6	28	2
Davis, J.	7	51	7.3	28	0
Ross, C.	9	42	4.7	13	1
Davis, J.	4	14	3.5	8	1
Thomas, W.	1	9	9.0	9	0

Simmons, M.	3	7	2.3	6	0
Kriewald, S.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Stuntz, M.	3	5	1.7	10	0
Grixby, D.	1	2	2.0	2	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Lord, J.	6-12-0	50.0	105	2
Stuntz, M.	2-3-0	66.7	25	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Thomas, W.	2	41	20.5	23	1
Cornelsen, B.	2	34	17.0	20	0
Pilkington, R.	2	20	10.0	11	0
Herian, M.	1	33	33.0	33	1
Diedrick, D.	1	2	2.0	2	0

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	4	229	57.3	71

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	4	66	16.5	27	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	1	42	42.0	42	0
Hasselbroek, T.	1	8	8.0	8	0

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Williams, D.	4	2	6	0	0	0
Adams, T.	4	1	5	1-8	0	1-8
Shanley, S.	3	2	5	0	0	0
Ruud, B.	3	1	4	2-9	0	1-8
Smith, L.	3	1	4	2-7	0	1-6
Bullocks, J.	3	1	4	0	0	0
Pippens, J.	2	1	4	0	0	0
Bingham, R.	1	3	4	0	0	0
Ricketts, P.	1	2	3	1-4	1-11	0
Safarek, S.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Kelsay, C.	2	0	2	2-13	0	2-13
Hollowell, T.	2	0	2	1-5	0	1-5
Bland, P.	2	0	2	1-1	0	0
Smith, J.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Bullocks, D.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Siegel, S.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Terpening, A.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Hopkins, L.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Evyaraya, S.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Cooper, I.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Buller, C.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Huston, K.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Cornelsen, B.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Groce, D.	0	1	1	0	2-21	0
Burgess, R.	0	1	1	0	0	0

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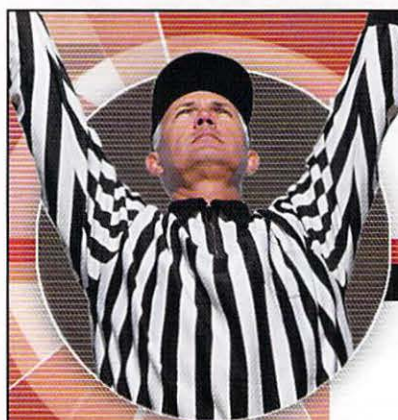


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He Had to Listen

With assurances from Osborne, Texan Barnes became candidate for NU position

By Mike Babcock

When Tony Samuel left Nebraska to become the head football coach at New Mexico State, Turner Gill contacted Nelson Barnes to see if he might be interested in Samuel's job.

Gill and Barnes had become friends in 1989, while they were on the coaching staff at North Texas, Gill as a volunteer assistant and Barnes as the defensive line coach.

They both left North Texas following that season, embarking on coaching sojourns that took Barnes to assistants' jobs at Missouri Western, Western Illinois, Kansas State and finally Texas.

Gill found his way back to Nebraska during that time, as a full-time assistant.

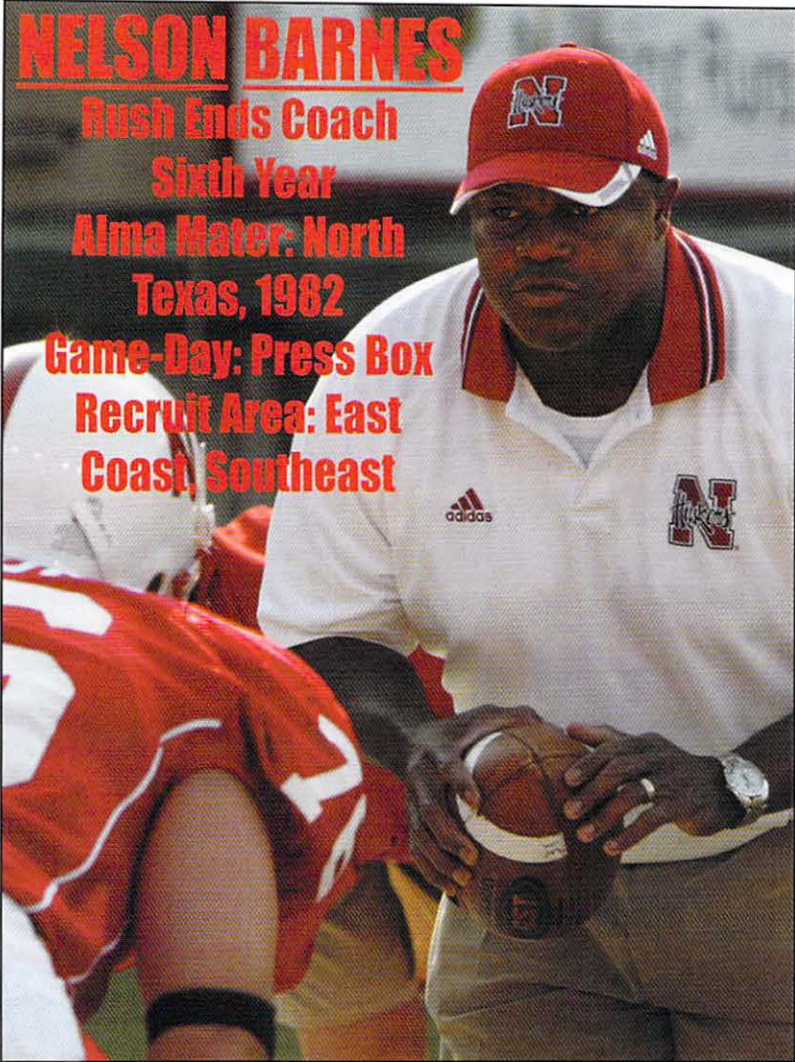
The two regularly traded information about common opponents. Texas, for example, played Oklahoma early in the season, so Barnes would give Gill a scouting report on the Sooners. And if Nebraska had played a team Texas was preparing to play, Gill would return the favor.

Barnes had spent three seasons coaching the Longhorns' defensive line and was content with his position. He grew up in Alvin, Texas, a Longhorn fan, "so there wasn't any need to go looking for another job I thought might be somewhat of a lateral move," he said. "I wasn't really interested."

Gill was persistent, however, and Barnes had to tell his friend no "at least three times."

If Gill had taken one of those nos for an answer, Barnes wouldn't be on Coach Frank Solich's staff now, in his sixth season working with the rush

NELSON BARNES
 Rush Ends Coach
 Sixth Year
 Alma Mater: North Texas, 1982
 Game-Day: Press Box
 Recruit Area: East Coast, Southeast



Scott Braun

ends. His feet were firmly planted in Texas soil, and Austin seemed like a pretty good place to spend the remainder of his coaching life.

Enter Tom Osborne, who, it turned out, would be coaching his final season in 1997.

Osborne called Barnes, and "Tom Osborne is one of those people that, if they call you, just out of respect, you should listen to what they have to say," Barnes said. So he did.

Osborne "was a very honorable man, one of the best in this profession," said Barnes. "I had only heard stories about him. I didn't know him personally. But he impressed me

enough to listen."

Though Barnes respected Osborne enough to listen, he wasn't compelled to accept the job. He needed some assurances from Osborne before he would consider being a candidate for the position.

With Osborne's assurances, Barnes followed through and looked into the program. What he found was so impressive that he would make the move, and leave his home state.

The Texas program had "a bit of a swagger" to it, as did the Kansas State program in which he had spent one season coaching the defensive line for Coach Bill Snyder — who was an

assistant under Hayden Fry at North Texas during the time Barnes played for the school in Denton.

But Nebraska had that swagger, too, and much more. "You look at this program top to bottom and you have a sense that there are very few with the magnitude this program has," said Barnes.

Still, he felt the tug of Texas. Given the opportunity, he would have played there. But the Longhorns hadn't offered a scholarship and North Texas had, as had other small schools in Texas.

Even though Barnes, who was born and raised in the Houston area, "didn't know North Texas from Adam," he knew North Texas played some of its home games each season in Texas Stadium. And that was a recruiting inducement he couldn't ignore. He grew up a Dallas Cowboys fan.

He also grew up in the hometown of baseball's Nolan Ryan. But despite Ryan's fame, the sport of choice in Alvin was football. "Every town in Texas is a football town, regardless of who is from there," Barnes said. "Football is still the sport of Texas, I would say, especially in high school."

His background is well suited to coaching. His interest in the Cowboys was based on an appreciation for Coach Tom Landry and the way Landry prepared perennially successful teams.

While his friends' allegiance to teams depended on wins and losses, he was concerned with how the Cowboys played. He was satisfied "if they played well, regardless of whether they won," he said. "I think I was always interested in the game from that standpoint rather than who won or lost."

"I was really into the integral parts of the game. My thinking was, if this team can accomplish this, this and this, this will happen. I think that's the way a lot of coaches think."

When he completed his eligibility at North Texas, however, he wasn't interested in coaching. Even though he still had to finish a degree, he turned down an undergraduate assistant's job.

He went home in the summer, planning to earn enough money to complete an industrial arts degree, after which he envisioned a career in manufacturing. To that end, he had interviews scheduled, "a couple of different things lined up with some engineering companies," he said.

During the summer, however, while he was making "\$8 or \$9 an hour" working for a construction

company in Houston, he decided that if he were to be an undergraduate assistant coach, he could pocket his summer earnings. The assistantship offer was still good, so he returned to North Texas.

"From there, I never got out of coaching," he said. "It was something I enjoyed. I just didn't see myself being in that the rest of my life. That was over 20 years ago. So I guess I'm a lifer."

Times have changed and the way he was coached wouldn't always work now. But he has been influenced by those who have coached him, as well as by those with whom he has coached.

Getting close to players "has to do with trust," he said. "We all have to earn trust, and as a coach, the first

thing I've learned from people I had a lot of trust in was that they made the first move."

That was among the qualities he admired in Osborne, and still does. When he was considering the job at Nebraska, Barnes said, Osborne "came better than halfway to establish that he trusted me and he had confidence in me. He earned that (trust). I didn't give it to him. He earned it."

"That's the way we have to treat our players; we have to earn their trust."

It earned Osborne an assistant, who would have been happy to stay where he was.

But the seeds were planted by Gill, his friend.

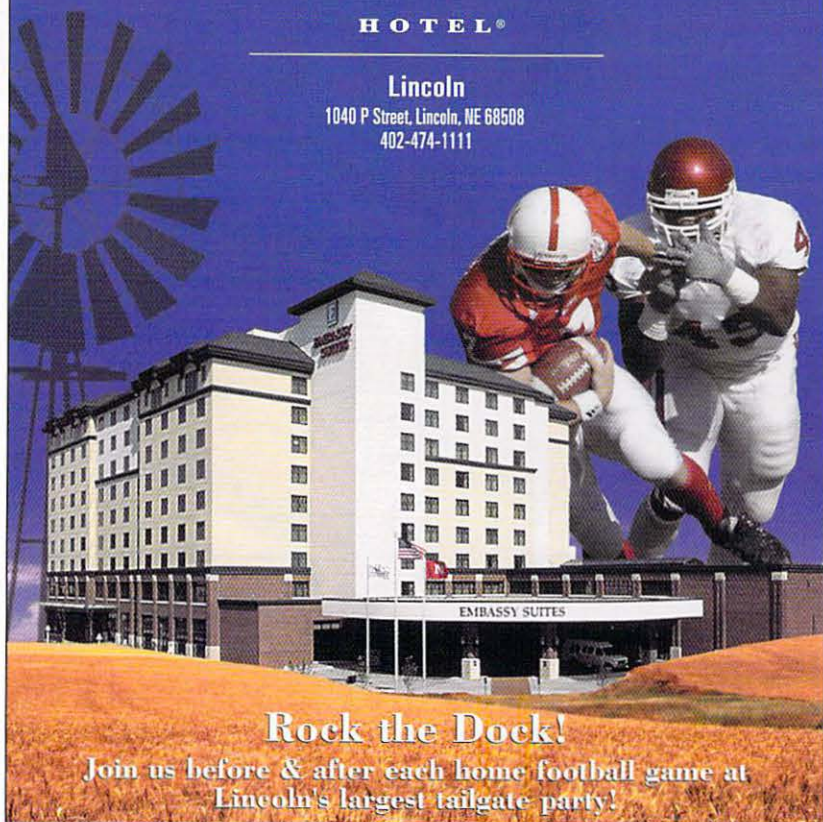
"I wouldn't be here if not for Turner," said Barnes. ■

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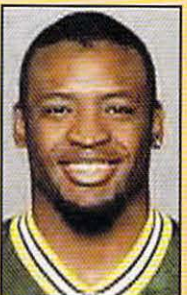
Ex-Huskers in the NFL



Mike Brown



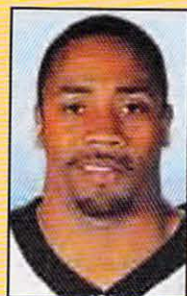
Chris Dishman



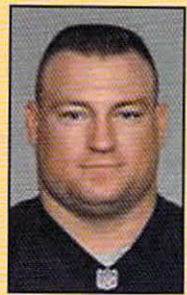
Ahman Green

Player	Pos.	Team	Yr.	No.
Kris Brown	PK	Houston Texas	4	3
Mike Brown	S	Chicago Bears	3	30
Ralph Brown	CB	New York Giants	3	22
Correll Buckhalter	RB	Philadelphia Eagles	2	28
Keyuo Craver	CB	New Orleans Saints	R	43
Eric Crouch	WR	St. Louis Rams	R	89
Chris Dishman	OG	Arizona Cardinals	6	67
Toniui Fonoti	OG	San Diego Chargers	R	71
Jay Foreman	LB	Houston Texans	4	56
Scott Frost*	S	Green Bay Packers	5	47
Aaron Graham	C	Tennessee Titans	6	60
Ahman Green	RB	Green Bay Packers	5	30
Russ Hochstein	OG	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2	65
Eric Johnson	S/LB	Oakland Raiders	3	41
Joel Makovicka	FB	Arizona Cardinals	4	34
Mike Minter	S	Carolina Panthers	6	30
John Parrella	DE	Oakland Raiders	10	97
Christian Peter	DT	Chicago Bears	6	97
Carlos Polk	LB	San Diego Chargers	2	52
Dominic Raiola	C	Detroit Lions	2	51
Mike Rucker	DE	Carolina Panthers	4	93
Cory Schlesinger	FB	Detroit Lions	8	30
Will Shields	OG	Kansas City Chiefs	10	68
Brenden Stai	OG	Washington Redskins	8	66
Adam Treu	C	Oakland Raiders	6	62
Kyle Vanden Bosch	DE	Arizona Cardinals	2	93
Eric Warfield	CB	Kansas City Chiefs	5	44
Steve Warren	DT	Green Bay Packers	3	96
Zach Wiegert	OG	Jacksonville Jaguars	8	77
Tyrone Williams	CB	Green Bay Packers	7	37
Grant Wistrom	DE	St. Louis Rams	5	98

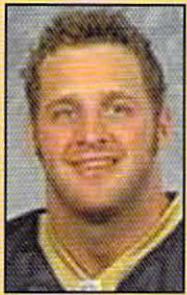
*Injured reserve



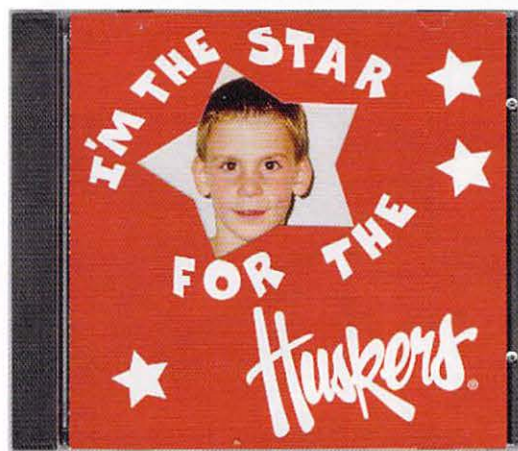
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John Parrella



Grant Wistrom



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<input type="checkbox"/> Alabama-Birmingham (UAB)	\$690,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Tech	\$1,180,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi State	\$775,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Southern Mississippi	\$1,155,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona	\$1,080,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii	\$1,020,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Missouri	\$630,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Stanford	\$990,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona State	\$675,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	\$1,200,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy	\$300,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Syracuse	\$1,100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas	\$1,610,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	\$895,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska	\$1,775,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee	\$2,000,000
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GOODYEAR
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Willing Leader

Senior captain Wischmeier has always found a role for Huskers

By Todd Henrichs

Lindsay Wischmeier's physical testing numbers won't impress anyone. But that's only because there's no easy way to measure heart and soul in an athlete.

In those categories, Wischmeier is the strength of the Husker volleyball team.

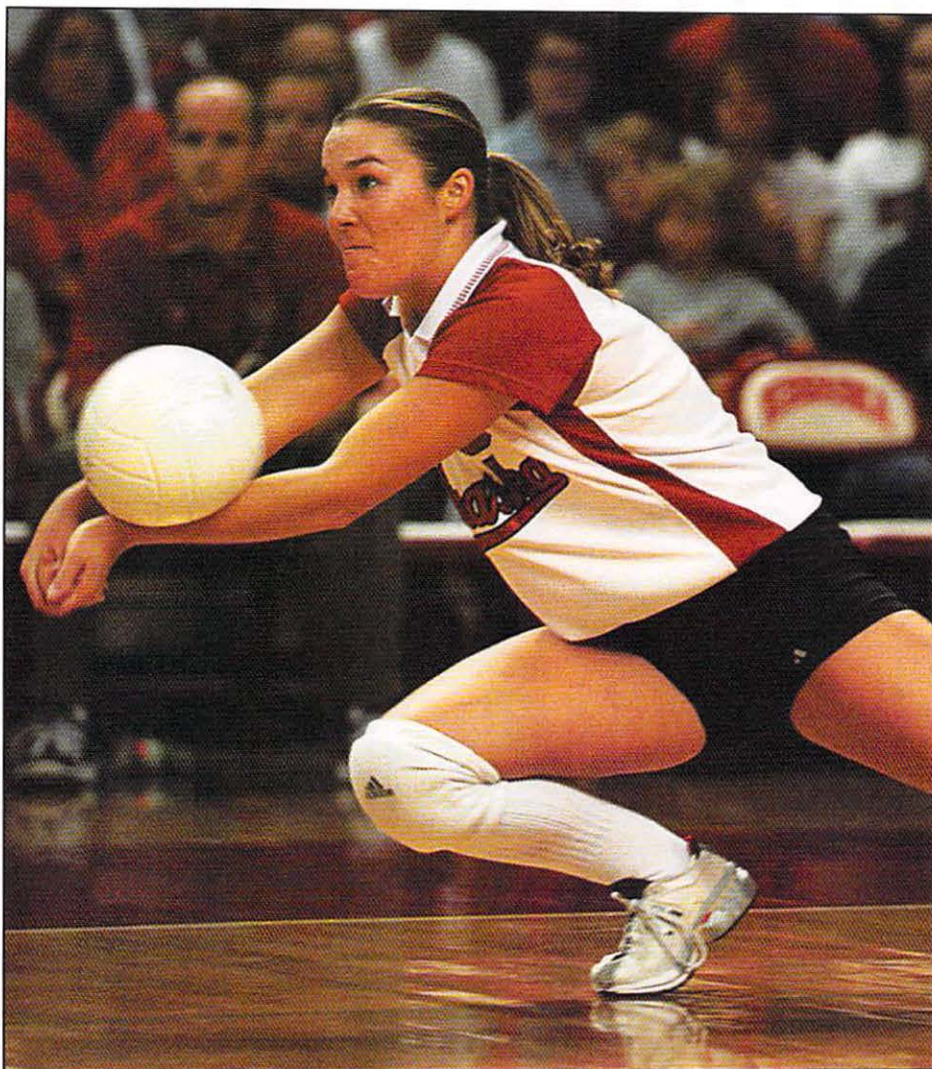
"She doesn't have the most talent, but as I think back to all of our big matches, Lindsay has either served, dug or made some play that has turned a match around," Nebraska Coach John Cook said. "Lindsay is a winner and a competitor, and she certainly has the respect of this team."

The most unheralded of this year's Husker seniors, Wischmeier is the team's undeniable captain. The product of one of Nebraska's smallest high schools — Class D-2 Lewiston — she has never missed a match since becoming a Husker, always finding a role that would get her on the court.

She was a setter her freshman year, a defensive specialist on the 2000 national champions and again last year when NU fell short in the national semifinals.

Wischmeier willingly grabbed onto the leadership role the morning after NU's loss to Stanford at the final four and hasn't let go.

Through offseason drills, spring practices and steamy summer conditioning workouts, Wischmeier has seen to it that the Huskers stayed



Lindsay Wischmeier played in every match last season and was one of two Huskers who played in all 108 games.

focused on teamwork.

Cook admits, and his players agree, that leadership was the missing component last season on an otherwise uniquely talented team. This year, Wischmeier is on the court more as the team's libero, something that helps Cook to relax even more.

Wischmeier expects she'll love her newest role just as much as she enjoys leading this outwardly more unified team.

"You have to feel comfortable with the person you're next to and

almost be able to guess before they make their move what they're going to do," Wischmeier said. "I think that was an issue last year. It's a team thing, and our team didn't take it upon themselves to make sure we trusted each other fully."

"In the spring, there were a lot less communication errors than there were last year. It seemed like everyone was kind of moving as one unit instead of six individuals."

This summer, Wischmeier played in beach doubles volleyball leagues

with teammate Laura Pilakowski. It was a relaxing way to stay fit, hone skills, and most importantly, work together.

After playing with Wischmeier this long, Pilakowski says they both can tell you where the other is on the court almost without looking. Off the court, they've been roommates since arriving at Nebraska.

That Wischmeier is leading this team is no surprise to Pilakowski or her fellow seniors. It's a role Wischmeier, the daughter of a successful coach, has been refining ever since she took up the game.

"Her being named captain just brings her role out in the open where it should be," senior Amber Holmquist said. "She's going to be the one that ends up leading us. With her work ethic and her always talking out there on the court, it's just really special that we have somebody like that on our team."

Holmquist, Pilakowski and Greichaly Cepero all arrived with Wischmeier in 1999 and everyone but Wischmeier has won All-American honors.

With a championship ring, however, Wischmeier will always have a place in Nebraska history. And if Nebraska should make it to the final four this year, it will be the first time the Huskers have been represented in three successive seasons.

With 766 digs coming into her last year, Wischmeier is within 320 of Angie Oxley's all-time NU record and could approach the mark in her new expanded role. She had 270 digs a year ago.

Wischmeier, too, might have left Nebraska as one of the all-time leaders in service aces, but as the libero can't improve on her numbers this season. The libero is not allowed to serve.

Pilakowski knows those things aren't important to her close friend. What's key is being a good leader, making a team feel more like a family.

"Being the captain is a great honor, especially when I look around and see the quality of people and players that I have around me," Wischmeier said. "An honor like this is greater to me than being an All-American. I know that it's something I'll never forget." ■

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Think Active

NU goalkeeper Miller doesn't even consider waiting passively

By Mark Derowitsch

Nebraska's Erin Miller isn't your typical goalkeeper. She never waits passively between the posts, killing time until the action comes her way.

Miller, you see, is more of a hands-on goalkeeper.

Make that feet-on goalkeeper.

She wanders outside the goal box, playing the soccer ball with her feet when she strays away from the goal box. No matter the situation, even if the Huskers have the ball deep in the other team's end of the field, Miller likes to stick her nose in the action.

"At times, I'm more of a fourth defenseman back there," she said. "I'm more of an 11th man when it comes right down to it. I'm a goalie first, but I'll do anything to keep an opponent from getting the ball in too deep."

Before you think Miller is some out-of-control control freak, think again. She's doing exactly what Nebraska Coach John Walker expects out of his goalkeeper.

Walker is the first to admit Nebraska uses its goalkeeper a little bit differently than the rest of the college soccer world.

Think active.

"If you look at how we use our goalkeeper, it's a little more unconventional," Walker said. "They use the ball a lot with their feet, they help the defenders more, and they cover a larger area of ground. It kind of makes sense to use someone like Erin back there."



Nebraska goalkeeper Erin Miller (right) stops a shot while battling an opposing player in a game earlier this season.

What Walker is talking about is Miller's 5-foot-11 frame, which she uses to her advantage. In other words,

you're not going to get many balls over her.

But it's more than just her height

that makes Miller an outstanding goalkeeper.

"She has so many physical qualities that we were looking for," Walker said. "She has the height, she's athletic, she has a good vertical jump, and she can use her feet well."

Here's something else to keep in mind: Miller's still learning the position. Walker recruited Miller out of Sioux Falls, S.D., to play defender, a spot she played as a freshman in 2000.

The following winter, Walker started to work Miller out with the other goalkeepers, and eventually she remained full time.

Last fall, she won the starting job and posted a 17-5-1 record. She also allowed just 1.12 goals per game.

Not bad for a novice.

"She's still learning the nuances of the game," Walker said. "Last year was a little more experimental, and she did a very good job. She's developed into one of the better keepers in the country."

"We viewed her as more of a long-range project, but she picked it up quicker than we thought."

Miller was never asked her opinion about the position change, a move she just accepted in order to gain more playing time.

"It just sort of happened over time," said Miller, who played keeper a couple of times while growing up. "I figured it would give me more options."

The Huskers' offense will have plenty of options this season, led by two-time Big 12 Conference player of the year Christine Latham. The senior forward led the league with 18 goals and 46 points last season, the second time she's done that as a Husker. Latham scored her school record 54th career goal, passing former Husker Kim Engesser, in a 1-0 win over Wisconsin early this season.

The native of Calgary, Alberta, is joined up front by another senior, Kori Saunders. A year ago, Saunders had eight goals and 21 points.

Throw in senior Breanna Boyd, one of the top defenders in the Big 12, and you know why Walker is excited about this season.

"We have three top-notch players in Christine, Kori and Breanna, and they're the kind of kids who naturally do a good job leading the team," he said.

Walker promises that this year's Huskers will be fun to watch, in part

because of the up-tempo style they prefer to play. Under Walker, the Huskers have always fielded aggressive, quick teams, but this one is different.

"We're a more athletic team," he said. "Our team speed is better than it's ever been, and we've always had quick teams."

They'll need it, because the Huskers duck no one. Need proof? Nebraska opened the season against second-ranked North Carolina, a perennial power and one of three NCAA Final Four opponents the Huskers will play this season.

Nebraska's nonconference schedule resembles a Who's Who list of col-

lege soccer, and that's just the way Walker likes it.

"That's one of the best things about college soccer is that the best teams want to play each other in non-conference," he said. "We'll get a good idea of where we stand early in the season, and see the things we need to work on before the NCAA Tournament."

"It helps us recruit, too. The best players want to play the best, and we provide that opportunity here."

Miller, who will certainly be pressed each week, can't complain.

"We want to see how we compete against the best," she said. "That's why you play the game." ■

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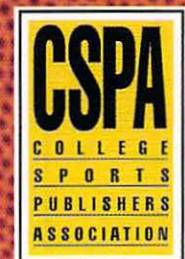
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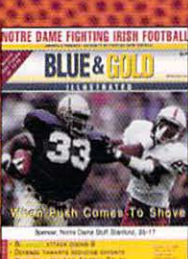


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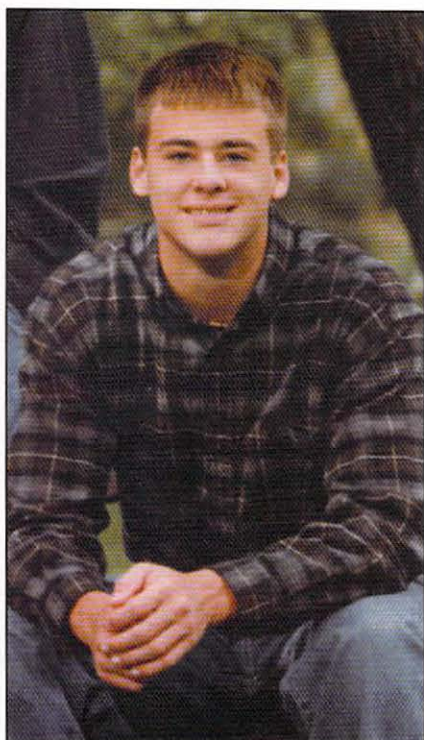
**Nebraska's
brother acts
will continue
with 2003
recruiting class**

By Doug Horwich

With a recent list that includes Christian and Jason Peter, Grant and Tracey Wistrom, Michael and Dion Booker, Mike, Jon and Mark Vedral, and Chad and Chris Kelsay, Nebraska has a history of younger brothers following older brothers to Lincoln.

That trend has continued in this recruiting class with linebackers Bo Ruud (6-foot-3, 210 pounds, 4.6 40-yard dash) and Steve Craver (6-2, 195, 4.5) recently giving oral commitments to the Husker staff.

Ruud will join older brother Barrett in the Husker linebacking corps, while Steve Craver will arrive in Lincoln less than two years after his brother's departure for the NFL's New Orleans Saints. Steve Craver is



Bo Ruud has committed to join older brother Barrett at Nebraska. Both are linebackers.

quite a bit bigger than older brother Keyuo, and is expected to play the Will linebacker position at Nebraska.

Nebraska coaches would also like to obtain the services of top tight end prospect Martin Rucker (6-5, 210, 4.75) from Benton High School in St. Joseph, Mo. Rucker is the younger

brother of former Husker rush end Mike Rucker, now a starting defensive end for the NFL's Carolina Panthers.

While capable of playing on either side of the football, Martin Rucker is being recruited as a tight end by Nebraska. He is currently undersized for the collegiate level, but older brother Mike came to Lincoln as a true freshman at the same weight and left at nearly 260 pounds. Like his older brother, Martin Rucker has the frame to get much bigger.

Nebraska and Missouri are the only schools to have offered Rucker thus far, and he's looking seriously at both.

"Those are the two schools he's focusing on right now," his father, Martin Sr., said. "Both asked him what side of the ball he wanted to focus on in college, and he said offense."

"He'd like to concentrate on the tight end position. If that doesn't work out, he can always switch, but both coaching staffs promised him a shot there."

Rucker speaks regularly with his older brother, who went through the recruiting process himself just eight years ago.

"[Mike] tells me to take all of my visits and make sure that I find the school that I want to go to," Rucker said. "He tells me about his experience at Nebraska and how much he liked it. I'm lucky to have him to talk to."

Like his older brother, Martin Rucker plays both tight end and defensive end for Benton, but Rucker feels that he's even more athletic than his older brother.

"I'm faster than he was, and I have better hands," he said. "but everything else was basically the same at this same stage. He was my

Nebraska Commitments for 2003

Player	Hometown (school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Greg Austin	Cypress, Texas	6-2	275	OL
Andy Birkel	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	6-3	180	WR
Steve Craver	Hurst, Texas	6-2	195	DB
Josh Mueller	Columbus (Lakeview), Neb.	6-7	250	TE
*Trevor Neeman	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	6-3	225	TE/DE
*Kade Pittman	North Platte, Neb.	6-0	190	RB/DB
Bo Ruud	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	6-3	210	LB
Brandon Teamer	Omaha (Central), Neb.	6-5	256	DT

*scheduled to enter school in the fall of 2002 as part-time students and receive scholarships in January 2003.

size when he graduated, though, and I still have a year to get bigger. I have good footwork and good flexibility for my size, and I have really good hand/eye coordination."

Rucker's size and athletic skills have allowed him to dominate in other sports too, and he was selected to the all-conference, all-district and all-city basketball teams last year as a junior. Rucker also won the conference track championships in the long jump (20-foot-6) and triple jump (43-foot-7).

While the Huskers are certainly a major player in the race for Rucker's signature, they are by no means a shoe-in, as Missouri is also very much in the race. It's also likely that additional offers will come after teams have a chance to evaluate game tape from his senior season.

In addition to Nebraska and Missouri, Rucker has also received interest from Colorado State and Kansas.

"I want to play for the school that is going to get me the best education and best chance to play in the League," Rucker said.

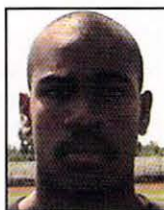
"I went to Nebraska's camp and have seen their campus several times. I went to a one-day camp at Missouri earlier this summer. I think Nebraska's facilities are better, but Missouri's are coming up. They are going to turn their program around and become a great football team."

Ultimately, Rucker is likely to take his father's advice regarding the recruiting process.

"My advice to him was to enjoy the summer," his father said. "You can't sign a letter of intent until February anyhow. I think he'll try to make a decision sometime this season, but it will depend on how many other offers he receives and things like that."

Another top national prospect who has strong family ties to Nebraska is linebacker Demarrio Pleasant (6-3, 215, 4.5) from Lewisville, Tex.

"My mom lived in Nebraska until she was seven," Pleasant said. "Then, she bounced around between Mississippi and Nebraska for the rest



Martin Rucker

A Look at NU's Top Offensive Prospects

By Rick Shaw

Nebraska already has commitments in the fold from three athletes who are slated for the offensive side of the ball in college.

Josh Mueller, a tight end from Lakeview High in Columbus, Neb., Andy Birkel, a wide receiver out of Southeast High in Lincoln, and Greg Austin, an offensive guard out of Cy-Fair High in Cypress, Texas, have all given early pledges to Husker coaches.

Here's an early look at 10 other top offensive prospects that Nebraska coaches have their eyes on as they head into the 2002 season:

1. Tommy Zbikowski, QB (Buffalo Grove, Ill.) — The 6-foot-0, 190-pound Zbikowski is generally considered among the nation's top 100 recruits by most recruiting publications. Like former Husker All-American Eric Crouch, he can beat you with his arm or his legs (4.4-second 40-yard dash). Look for his decision to eventually come down to either Notre Dame (which likes him at safety) or Nebraska.

2. Ofa Mohetau, OG (Euleess, Texas) — This 6-3, 335-pound mammoth from Texas is widely considered to be the top offensive guard prospect in the country for 2002. Mohetau, who claims a 420-pound bench press and a 4.8 40, has the Huskers in his early top five along with Colorado, BYU, Texas, and Arizona State.

3. Martin O'Donnell, OT (Downers Grove, Ill.) — O'Donnell is rated as the top offensive tackle prospect in the country by Rivals.com. The 6-5, 290-pound big man has Nebraska, Michigan, Illinois, and Stanford all tied for his early lead.

4. Lynell Hamilton, RB (Stockton, Calif.) — Hamilton, a 6-0, 195-pound blazer from Northern California, is rated as the No. 8 running back in the country by Rivals.com. Miami has the edge early, with Michigan, Nebraska and a host of others close behind.

5. Bernard Jackson, QB (Corona, Calif.) — Like Zbikowski, Jackson is thought to be one of Nebraska's top prospects at quarterback. The 6-2, 190-pounder out of California has an official visit to Nebraska lined up for Oct. 11. Jackson currently lists a top three of Nebraska, Kansas State, and Washington.

6. Mikal Brewer, OG (Peoria, Ariz.) — The 6-3, 285-pound Brewer attended the Nebraska-Arizona State game in late August as an official visitor. Arizona, Notre Dame, and Stanford will battle Nebraska for Brewer's commitment.

7. Brett Byford, OG (Hartselle, Ala.) — Byford camped at Nebraska in June and was enamored with the personalities of Husker assistant coaches Turner Gill and Ron Brown. The 6-4, 290-pound blue chipper out of Alabama has a fall visit to Oklahoma planned and has offers from a host of other schools.

8. Martin Rucker, TE (St. Joseph, Mo.) — Rucker is the younger brother of former Husker all-conference defensive end Mike Rucker. The 6-5, 205-pound athlete out of western Missouri received early offers from both Nebraska and Missouri.

9. Jason Ray, WR (Broken Arrow, Okla.) — The 6-2, 190-pound Ray finished with more than 800 yards in receptions in 200. Nebraska, Kansas, and Notre Dame are three of Ray's early leaders.

10. Ian-Yates Cunningham, OG (Lewisville, Texas) — Cunningham is considered by most to be among Texas' top 30 prospects heading into the 2002 season and one of its top five offensive linemen. The 6-5, 300-pound road grader has an early top four of Nebraska, Notre Dame, Texas A&M, and Virginia. ■

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of her youth. She's pretty much a Nebraska fan. Her entire family still lives in Omaha, and they are all big Nebraska fans. My cousin (Erwin Swiney) even played there."

With a number of passionate Nebraska fans in his family, it's not surprising that Pleasant is feeling some pressure to become a Husker.

"My aunt and uncle live in Omaha," he said. "A lot of my family live up there actually. My uncle came in last weekend and brought me a Nebraska shirt with my name on the back of it. He also brought pictures of the campus and stadium. He's a big fan of Nebraska and wants me to go there."

Pleasant admits that he feels that having family nearby would be a nice benefit.

"That is a big plus for a school like Nebraska — knowing that I know someone who lives in the state. I'm open to staying in state or going out of state. It all depends on where my best opportunity is. Distance will not be a factor at all. I want to go wherever presents the best opportunity.

"My parents said that they will support me in whatever decision I make."

An early opportunity for playing time is important to Pleasant, who will be studying depth charts with much interest.

"I want to go somewhere where I can compete for a starting job right off the bat," he said. "I want to look closely at all of the depth charts. I also want to go to a school with a good winning tradition — a place that wins every year."

"I'd say Oklahoma, Texas, USC, Ohio State, Michigan, Colorado, Arkansas, Texas A&M and Nebraska are schools I'm looking at pretty seriously right now," Pleasant said.

Most of the schools are talking to him about playing outside linebacker.

"My speed is my best asset," Pleasant said. "I'm good at getting to the ball and making open field tackles. I have pretty good coverage skills, too. I can man-up on receivers and hold my own."

As a junior, Pleasant racked up 89 tackles, 14 tackles-for-loss, eight sacks and four interceptions. He was named first-team all-area and all-district. ■

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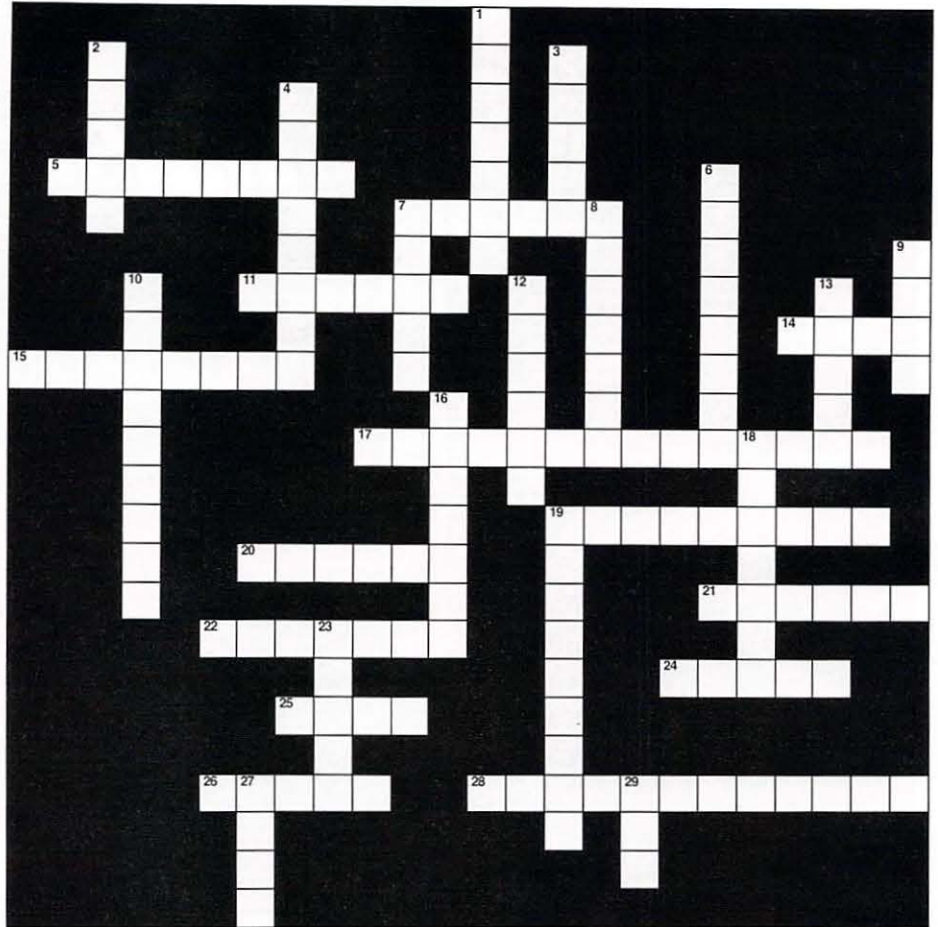
ACROSS

- 5 Ex-Husker defensive back now with Chiefs
- 7 NU's rush ends coach
- 11 NU's Homecoming opponent
- 14 NU's leading rusher vs. Troy State
- 15 Ex-Husker defensive back now with Packers
- 17 Penn State location
- 19 NU's Sept. 28 opponent
- 20 1997 Outland Trophy winner
- 21 Had his jersey retired at Troy State game
- 22 NU's No. 59 (defense)
- 24 Returned 2 punts for TDs vs. Troy State
- 25 NU's radio play-by-play announcer
- 26 Ex-Husker running back now with Packers
- 28 Penn State nickname

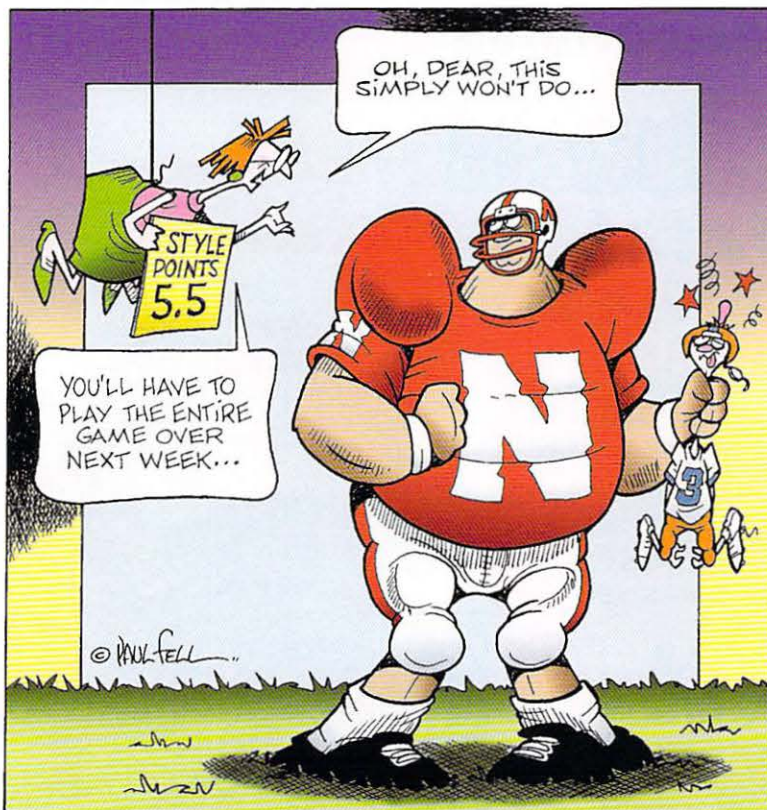
DOWN

- 1 1994 Outland Trophy winner
- 2 NU's Nov. 2 opponent
- 3 NU's athletic director
- 4 NU's leading tackler vs. Troy State
- 6 Iowa State coach
- 7 NU safety from Colorado
- 8 Ex-Husker lineman now with Chiefs
- 9 NU's No. 59 (offense)
- 10 NU's running backs coach
- 12 John Garrison's position
- 13 Aaron Terpening's position
- 16 1997 Lombardi Award winner
- 18 Penn State coach
- 19 NU offensive lineman from Arizona
- 23 Had 2 interceptions vs. Troy State
- 27 Suffered broken hand vs. Troy State
- 29 Network for Penn State game

Answers in Sept. 21 issue



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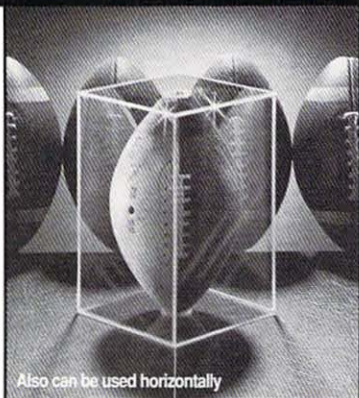
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Jungle Karma?

'People are getting tired of hearing we don't run the ball well'



**Mike
BABCOCK**

THE CALLER to Jim Rome's nationally syndicated radio program on the Friday before the Utah State game identified himself as being from Omaha, "Bugaha" in the parlance of Rome's "Jungle."

Earlier, Cornhusker Coach Frank Solich had been Rome's guest.

The Omaha caller was responding to the Solich interview. He was a Cornhusker fan, he said, and though he acknowledged that he might not know as much as Solich about coaching, he had some concerns about Nebraska's offense. He had a "take," again in "Jungle" parlance, on the offense.

Rome was in top form when he responded, picking up on the caller's admission that he might not know as much as Solich about coaching. He might not?

"You think?" Rome asked rhetorically.

Rome, who has always been generous to Nebraska, suggested that the Cornhuskers didn't need to make wholesale changes in their offense, that they could be successful with a run-oriented attack — options and power game — as long as they could throw well enough to keep defenses honest.

Such an offense produced three national championships in Tom Osborne's final four seasons as head coach. And Solich has continued that approach, with modifications of his own.

The philosophy is essentially the same, but the offense is Solich's.

But three games into the season, it's unclear whether the offense has the punch to which Nebraska fans have become accustomed, hence the Omaha call to Rome. Nebraska is perennially among the nation's leaders in rushing offense, but it has yet to rush for 300 yards in a game this season.

The Cornhuskers were close against Utah State, however, gaining 288 yards on the ground. Without two sacks, they would have been at 300 yards. And they averaged 5.3 yards per carry.

"People are getting tired of hearing we don't run the ball well," I-back Dahrran Diedrick said.

The people to whom he referred play on Nebraska's offensive line. And they were opening some sizeable holes against a Utah State defense that was, to be kind, suspect.

But suspect or not, "it really helps our confidence to run up the middle," said Diedrick.

He ran up the middle, and to the outside when the opportunity presented itself, rushing for a season-high 93 yards on 16 carries. His carries were one more than against Troy State and two fewer than against Arizona State — and

five fewer than he averaged last season, when he led the Big 12 in rushing.

With Eric Crouch departed, it seemed reasonable to assume that Diedrick would be asked to shoulder a great share of the rushing load. But the opposite has been the case.

Diedrick hasn't complained, however. "I hope I see 25 carries," he said.

"But I'm just trying to get what I can get."

Diedrick is "getting there," said quarterback Jammal Lord, who led Nebraska in rushing in each of the first two games but carried only nine times against Utah State. Even though the offensive numbers have been down, "we didn't really struggle the first two games," he said.

Defenses have been stacking up to stop the run.

Against Utah State, Lord showed what can happen, finding open receivers for a pair of touchdown passes, to split end Wilson Thomas and tight end Matt Herian.

Lord and Mike Stuntz combined to complete 8-of-15 passes for 130 yards.

"What we were able to get out of it (the passing game) was pretty good," Solich said.

The key to both running and passing is the offensive line, which is "coming along," he said.

Lord was similarly complimentary of those up front.

"It's always a plus when the offensive line gets a push," he said.

Offensively, overall, "I think they're a confident group," said Solich. "They've seemed very confident in terms of their ability, and I think this certainly had to build some confidence within them."

Confidence will be crucial when the Cornhuskers go on the road for their next two games, at Penn State and at Iowa State, in their conference opener, after a week off.

Lord was asked if Nebraska has held back offense with an eye toward Penn State. "I don't think you could say 'holding back,'" he replied. "Certain plays work and certain plays won't work."

That is dictated by the defensive schemes.

In any case, the Cornhuskers will be prepared for Penn State.

"We've got no choice," Lord said, in all seriousness. "We'll see on Saturday."

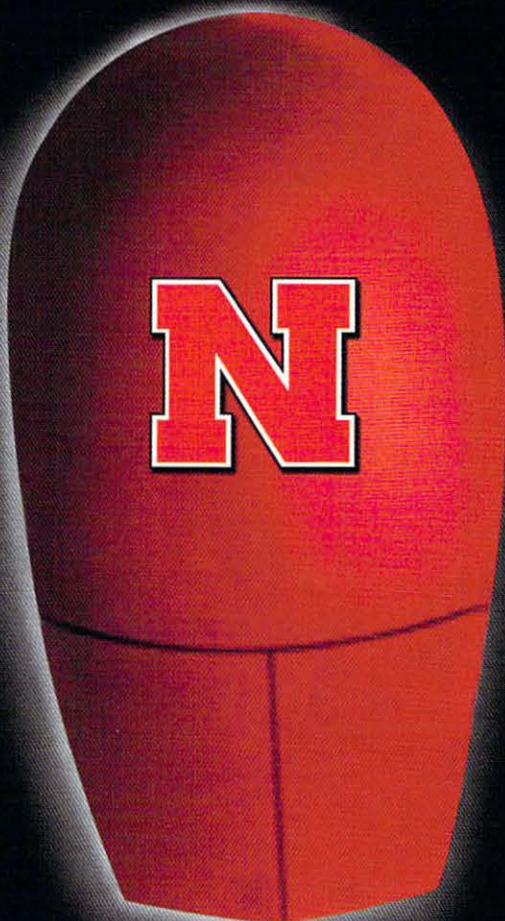
One thing is certain, "passing the ball is going to help us," said Diedrick.

That was Rome's message to the caller from Omaha. Solich knows what needs to be done. He's been coaching "for about 50 years," Rome said, exaggerating to make his point. ■



**Dahrran Diedrick found some
holes against Utah State.**

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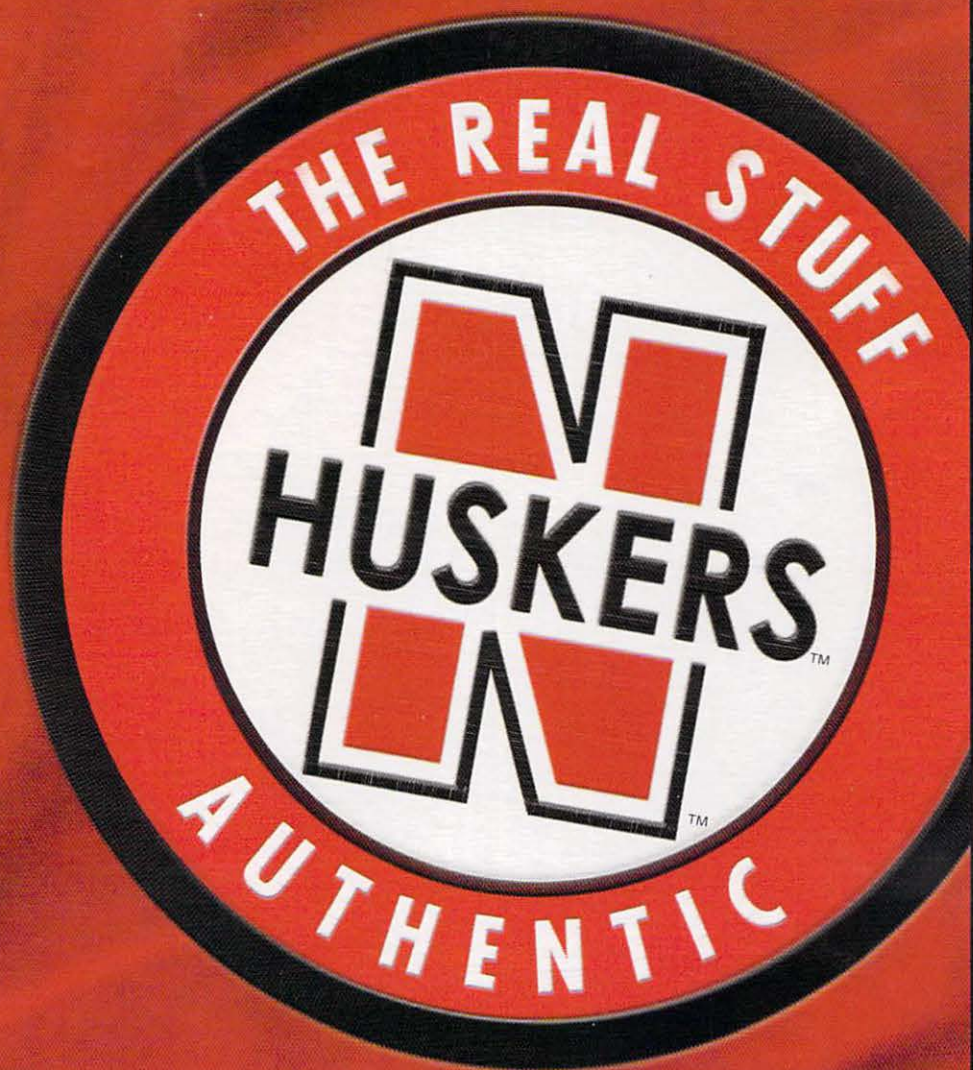
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